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Section Two: Arts

MONDAY 5 AUGUST 1996

Section Two: Arts

40p (UK 45p)

# THE INDEPENDENT

3,056

## Black South African breaks through, but Britain trails behind



Golden moment: Josia Thugwane celebrating as he approaches the finishing line in the marathon yesterday, to become the first black South African to win an Olympic gold medal

Photograph: AP/Doug Mills

JOJO MOYES and  
MIKE ROWBOTTOM  
Atlanta

From today, Britain has a little more in common with Hong Kong, Finland and Jamaica. It has joined these countries in having harvested one gold medal - apiece - from the Atlanta games. Now, as the 1996 Olympics draws to a close, questions are being raised over Britain's poor performance. Is the country that pro-

duced Steve Ovett, Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson, now destined to lurk at the bottom of the medals tables? Or will last month's sporting humiliation prove a catalyst for a sporting revolution?

In the gold medal tables, Britain yesterday trailed behind Kazakhstan, Denmark and Poland - the worst result since 1976. Thirty countries took home more gold medals than Britain, while France and Italy boasted 15 and 12 respectively.

As the inquests began, Malcolm Arnold, Britain's coaching chief, yesterday initially blamed the British press for lowering the morale of the national teams. But he and other British Olympic officials pin the blame more squarely on a lack of resources. "Our annual budget for coaching and development is equivalent to what a second-division football manager might spend on a third-rate striker," he said in Atlanta. "Taking sport seriously means re-

sources and spending substantial amounts of money." The British Athletic Federation is trying to get help from the National Lottery, but is still waiting to hear if its £9.6m bid has been successful. The bid involves a structured plan up to 2001 when Britain may stage the world athletics championships, and involves training grants and back-up services for elite athletes. Mike Whittingham, who put together the plan as a consultant for

the Federation, described the current situation as "a political nightmare." With the structure of the proposed British Academy for Sport still under discussion, there is uncertainty about whether applications will be considered from federations, or even individual competitors, once the emphasis for Lottery funding shifts from capital projects to providing revenue. Whittingham, who coaches Britain's double-silver medalist Roger Black, believes a central

British Academy of Sport will also make it hard to cater for the needs of all Britain's elite performers. "You could be talking about 6,000 athletes. The academy... will have to rely on the governing bodies."

In an interview yesterday with *The Independent*, Craig Reddie, chairman of the British Olympic Association, described the athletes as "victims of our system".

He said: "We'll have to convince the paymasters of British sport the

rest of the world takes sport more seriously than we do." Britain's poor performance has become the focus of a political row. Just days after the Prime Minister launched the annual £300m Raising the Game programme, an initiative to improve Britain's chances of sporting success, Labour seized on reports that the Government might withdraw funds from programmes which prepare people for leisure-time occupations. Reddie interview, Sports Section

## New examination system set to boost A-level pass rate

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

The A-level pass rate will rise again this year because of changes that allow students to spread revision throughout their courses rather than having to do it all at the end, examination boards predict.

The new "modular" A-levels, which were taken by up to 50,000 students this year, have raised motivation and have allowed students to drop out early if they are unlikely to pass, the boards say. Under this system, candidates who fail can retake as many times as they like.

Critics of the system, who want 100 per cent of A-level marks to be gained through a final exam, say it will contribute to "grade inflation" by making it easier for candidates to pass. However, under plans to be announced later this week, can-

didates may need more than good A-level grades to obtain a place at university.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, working with government curriculum advisers, wants candidates to be tested on numeracy and literacy. It also wants to find a way of measuring self-motivation, team-working and communication skills.

The move reflects complaints from universities and employers that the brightest sometimes lack the basic skills to make the most of college education, or fit into the workplace.

Tony Higgins, Ucas chief executive, said: "By the end of the century, it could be that universities will not look at students who do not have the appropriate key skills qualifications."

The plans tie in with Sir Ron Dearing's proposed reforms of post-16 qualifications, encour-

### Your guide to course vacancies

The Independent will again be the only paper publishing all the official course vacancies throughout clearing. Order your Monday 19 August paper, when the first lists appear.

aging greater parity between academic and vocational courses. But it has not been decided how "key skills" would be fitted into the new system. "They could be incorporated into the curriculum and measured as part of existing exams, or there could be separate tests," Mr Higgins said. Sir Ron has proposed a single exam in key skills at AS-level - half an A-level.

By the end of the century, scores in these "key skills" and

other achievements would be held on an electronic database. "If we are seriously looking at the development of lifelong learning and the accumulation of credits for learning experiences, a national database could contain profiles which would be very useful to employers," said Mr Higgins.

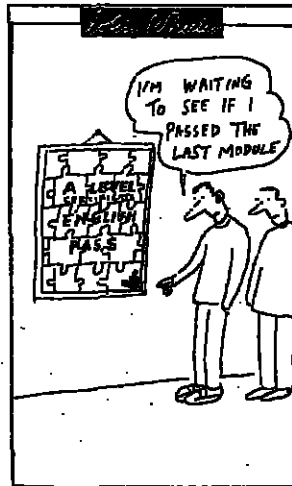
The plans might help to defuse the annual controversy over whether A-levels are getting easier, because the exam would not be the only criteria for getting a college place.

Exam boards say the modular A-level pupils may get higher grades because instead of taking a two-year course and then sitting exams at the end, candidates take written tests as they go along. The final exam accounts for only 30 per cent of the marks while coursework takes up a maximum of 20 per cent and the interim tests 50 per

cent or more. The new-style exams, which are marked by exam boards, have been introduced by ministers and taken by about a quarter of candidates doing maths, English or science subjects this year.

With more than 700,000 candidates taking A-levels, any rise in the pass rate, which is already going up by about 1 per cent each year, is likely to be slight. However, examination officials say that while there are fewer high grades under the new system, there are fewer failures as well. Figures compiled by the University of Cambridge Board, which did some modular courses last year, have confirmed this.

A North-South divide still exists in staying-on rates for 16-year-olds, the Labour Party said last night. While six out of 10 pupils in the North stay on at school, 78 per cent do so in



the South-east. Bryan Davies, a Labour education spokesman, said the disparity could undermine efforts to develop a high-skill, high-tech economy.

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<b>Aborted twin fears</b>	A gynaecologist's decision to abort one of a pair of healthy twins was "no different to any other abortion", doctors said yesterday. But pro-life organisations warned of the effect on the surviving twin. Page 5	<b>BUSINESS &amp; CITY</b>	16, 17
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## NHS 'wasting millions on failed computer projects'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

The National Audit Office has launched a preliminary investigation into allegations that millions of pounds of NHS cash have been wasted on large-scale computer projects which have failed to deliver, are late and in some cases may never work properly at all.

The move follows the widespread leaking of confidential documents from the NHS Executive, mounting criticism from health authority and NHS Trust chief executives of the executive's Information Management Group which runs the projects, and an assessment

yesterday by the British Medical Association that its operation seems to be "rotten at the core". A BMA spokesman said: "Things do seem to be going horribly wrong."

One of the failures is the £100m Hospital Information Support System (HISS) which was launched without a full business case appraisal in 1988. It has been subject to delay and disappointing performance. Documents leaked to *Radio 4's The World This Weekend* and seen by *The Independent* show that a critical National Audit Office report on the scheme published earlier this year was watered down. Its first draft contained much stronger criticism of the Executive and its Information Management Group for its oversight of the project.

Another system, the Read codes, a system for allocating a computer code to patients' medical conditions, has been plagued by implementation problems. Questions have been

raised about the financial arrangement under which their GP inventor, Dr James Read, sold the idea to the NHS and then continued to work on it on a cost plus 30 per cent basis while charging NHS bodies a licence fee to use it. A senior Welsh Office official has warned the system is "in danger of collapse."

More than £130,000 is being spent to correct the NHS numbers project, aimed at providing a unique computerised 10-digit number for all patients. It issued the same number to more than 7,500 newborn babies, generating about 30 such errors a week earlier this year.

Another scheme, Memphis, aimed at creating a computer network for senior NHS managers, was approved without an option appraisal, according to a senior health department economist who was asked to comment on it overnight when consultants were due to start work on it three days later. He

condemned the £1m scheme as "unacceptable", according to a leaked memo, protesting that the preferred solution was "the only one on offer". The papers also suggest contracts may have been breached Civil Service guidelines and EU directives.

Copies of slides from an internal assessment by the IMG last year of progress since 1992 suggest that of 18 objectives set then, only 4 had been achieved.

Chris Smith, Labour's new health spokesman, yesterday called for Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, to intervene. The Department's only comment came yesterday from the NHS Executive, which said the projects involved integration of more than £2bn of IT systems which the NHS has successfully installed over the past decade. That programme was "well advanced" and "problems are few", despite the initiative requiring "managerial and technical change on a considerable scale."

## Virtual welcome for firm's recruits

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Editor

After the paperless office and the golden hello, a firm of accountants has dreamed up the next stage in technology: the virtual welcome.

New recruits to Morton Thornton, based in St Albans, Hertfordshire, will in future be shown around the three-floor building without leaving their desks - and without taking up the valuable, fee-paying time of other members of staff.

The new virtual reality tour, which will replace the day-long induction programme that the firm used to offer to its recruits, will also include a guide to the town's cathedral, and pubs.

"It gives you a guided tour in which you can start outside the front door of the practice and 'walk' through the front door and all over the building," said Christopher Lowe, a partner in the 70-strong firm.

The guided tour takes the form of movies in which the user can control the speed and di-

rection of travel. Those pictures were collected from digitised camera and video films made on the premises.

But the program's usefulness extends much further. "It can show you pictures of key people in the organisation, and explain procedures such as how to handle clients on the phone, or how to claim expenses."

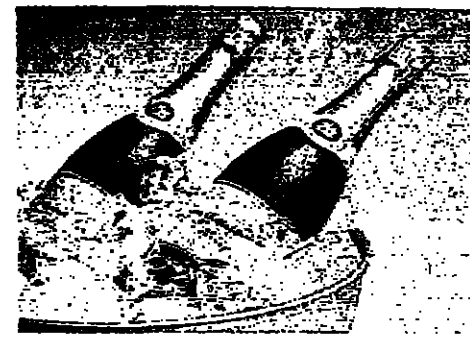
The pressure for replacing the personal touch with the personal computer did not come from previous recruits, Mr Lowe said. Instead, it was the drive for profitability.

"We were looking at cost structures, and training is expensive, costing up to £70 per hour," he said. "We wanted to get the best value from it. There is a cost saving in doing it this way."

Rather than tying up a senior partner - who might have to use valuable chargeable time on telling a recruit where the photocopier is - the CD-ROM based product will be able to point the way and save the firm thousands of pounds annually.



ROUND THE ISLAND



ON THE ROCKS

COWES WEEK	5-10 August
2ND CORNHILL TEST MATCH V PARITAN, HEDDINGLESS	8-12 August
EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL	11-15 August
SALA CUT DERRY, HICKSTAD	15-18 August
GATCOMBE PARK HORSE TRIALS	31 August-1 September
DUMFRIES BATHEN MATHIE, COLLECTIVE	3-5 September
THE ROYAL HIGHLAND GAMES OF BRANMAR	7 September
ST LEAS STABLES, DUNCASTER	14 September
LAST NIGHT OF THE PRINCE, ROYAL ALBERT HALL	14 September
LE FESTIVAL AUX QUAT SAUMONS, GREAT MILTON	1-5 October

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## news

# Portillo backs US in terror war

Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday signalled that Britain would support US strikes against terrorist training camps in the Middle East if there is clear evidence they are linked to recent terrorist attacks on American bases.

There was growing speculation in Washington that Iran sponsored the terrorists who were responsible for the bombing of the US base in Saudi Arabia. And there was further evidence that TWA Flight 800 was brought down by a bomb.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, said "a flood of intelligence" suggested another attack on US forces in Saudi Arabia was imminent. "We are preparing for a

Iran is suspected over attacks on bases. Colin Brown and John Carlin report

terrorist attack," he said. "We see our military forces under terrorist threat."

British bases in the Middle East have been put on alert and security has been stepped up. Mr Perry, who briefed Mr Portillo on Friday, during a stop-over from Saudi Arabia, played down speculation of an early US attack in the Middle East, but there were weekend reports that the CIA has identified 11 terrorist training camps in Iran, which sent the bombers that attacked American military targets in Saudi Arabia last November and in June.

As part of the flight deck of TWA Flight 800 was recovered,

it was also reported that pieces of china had been found embedded in the roof of the first-class cabin, raising speculation that a bomb could have exploded in the galley or in panelling in the lavatory.

Mr Portillo underlined on GMTV the seriousness of the threat he believes the West is facing.

"This has to be a global struggle in which the allies stand shoulder-to-shoulder determined to beat terrorism," Mr Portillo said. "We need to show the presence of the West defending Kuwait, defending Saudi Arabia, determined to resist aggression ... these terrorists,

whoever they are, are trying to drive out the Western powers and make that region insecure, cut off oil to the West, unleash extremism of one sort or another, therefore we need to be extremely robust."

He said Mr Perry had "voiced a suspicion that this isn't just a domestic Saudi group that's involved. There may be connections elsewhere. Now we also insist on clear evidence of that."

Mr Perry, who returned last week from Saudi Arabia, said Saudi and FBI investigators working jointly to determine who planted the bomb had not yet found any solid leads. "I

learned nothing new about who was responsible for the bombing," he said.

But he did reiterate his belief that either a foreign government or forces working outside Saudi Arabia had collaborated in the bombing.

"Because of the complex nature of the attack I believe that in and of itself provides evidence of outside support," he said. "It was a military detonator and a military explosive."

Mr Perry also noted that "Iran and Iraq are two countries that have regularly stated that they do not want our forces" in Saudi Arabia.

But Britain has warned the

US against a commando raid to snatch Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader wanted for war crimes. The US was reported to be drawing up plans for a strike by airborne special forces against Mr Karadzic at his base in Pale.

But Mr Portillo cautioned against such a move, saying British, French and American lives might be sacrificed in this kind of kidnapping raid.

"Remember, this is not a free option. If Karadzic were to be snatched, my judgement is we would put at risk, we might sacrifice, American, British, French lives."

"The question that I am responsible for asking is, how many British lives that is worth." Mostar dilemma, page 8

A festival that began as a way to raise funds for a new village hall now attracts 17,000 fans

## Fairport feelgood factor

MATTHEW BRACE

Not all summer rock festivals are the bane of villagers' lives. In fact, for one sleepy village near Banbury in north Oxfordshire, their annual outdoor music bash is the highlight of the year.

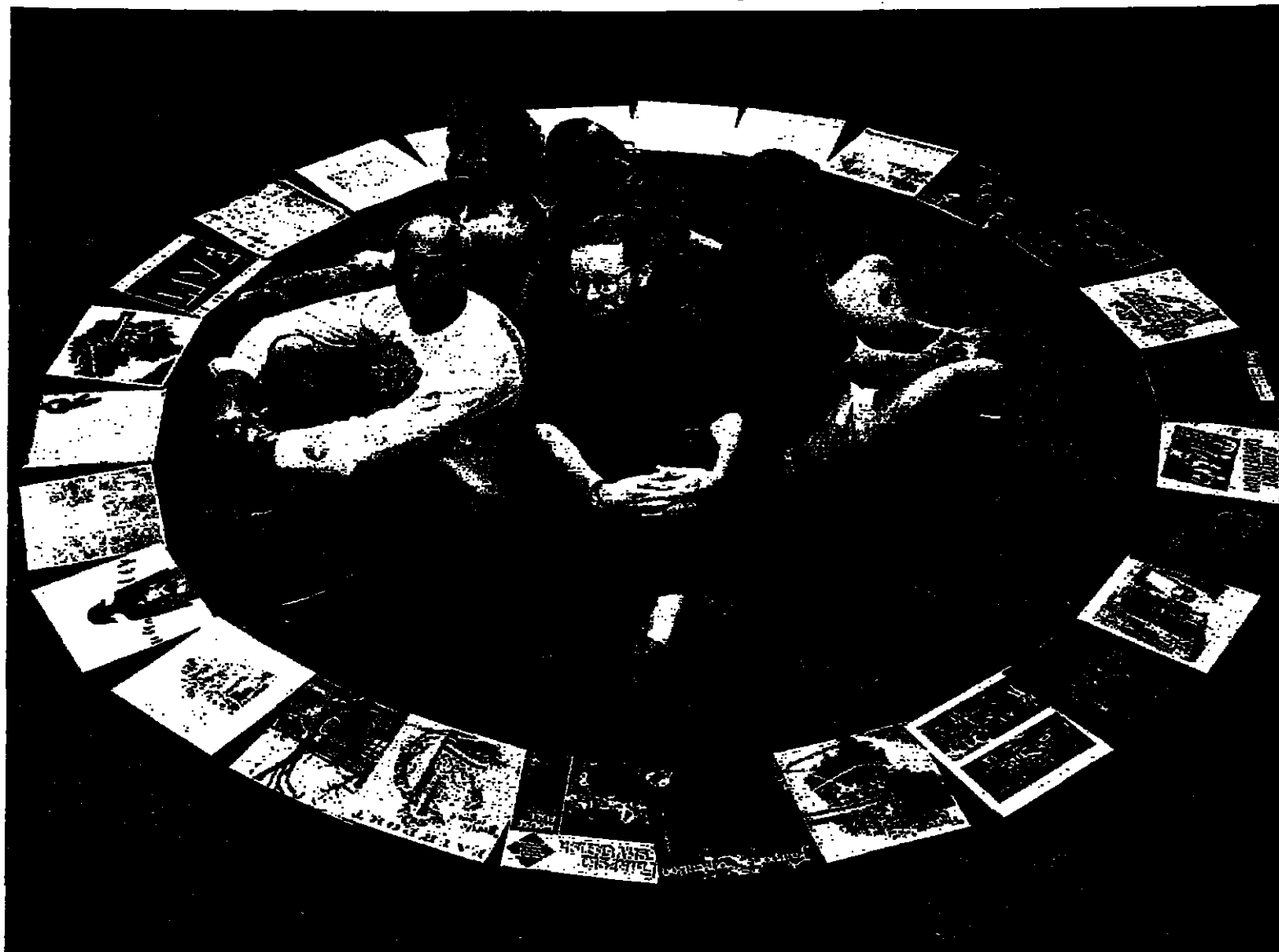
The Cropredy festival, dreamed up 20 years ago this week, has spawned a large cottage industry without which the village would be the poorer.

The event, organised by and starring the legendary folk rock band Fairport Convention, began life in the parched summer of 1976 as a sing-along to raise money for a new village hall.

Now it attracts 17,000 revellers from all over Europe, a congenial mix of ageing hippies, bikers and families that descends on the tiny village (population 724) each August, camping out in the fields where the Battle of Cropredy Bridge was fought in 1644 during the Civil War.

While the summer music festivals at Glastonbury, Reading and Stratford-upon-Avon have been known to get themselves bad names by upsetting police and locals in recent years, the "Fairports" and their followers have been charming the villagers of Cropredy.

The local Ladies Circle are up at dawn each day during the event cooking fried breakfasts on vast barbecues in nearby farmyards for hungover hippies. The local Scouts perform morning litter sweeps, carefully picking up crushed beer cans and cigarette ends from between clumps of sleeping Hell's Angels. The village's two pubs and one corner shop have their two most fruitful days of the



Life's work: Fairport Convention relax at Woodworm Studios, encircled by their albums, after rehearsals for the Cropredy Festival. Photograph: John Potter

year. And the vicar puts on a special Festival Service for Christian bikers on the Sunday morning. "The church is always full," he insists.

In the event's 20-year history there has been little violence. There was only a handful of arrests last year and the drug squad does not even bother to turn up any more.

The last major incident was when an elderly resident had three rose bushes torn from her garden in the middle of the night. The band and the village clubbed together and bought her replacements and planted them for her.

Ticket touts are unbothered at Cropredy, despite the fact that many festival-goers turn up

on the Friday afternoon and buy their weekend passes on the gate.

Fairport Convention theorise about why the festival is so good-natured. Is it the music? Oasis and the Sex Pistols are unlikely to appear on the bill, but last year the festival had its fair share of screaming guitars and head-banging from some of the

support acts. The clientele perhaps? Cropredy does attract an older age group (mainly in their 30s and 40s), but there is never a shortage of lads in rugby shirts, swaying on ciders.

"It's the whole atmosphere," says Dave Pegg, Fairport's bass player, "the vibe if you like. People know Cropredy is a peaceful place, a peaceful

festival. Violence or bad behaviour here is just not on, so nobody does it. It's always been like that. Wonderful really, and unique."

"At what other festival can you leave your tent open and not have anything nicked?" Cropredy starts on Friday, 9 August. Tickets available on the gate.

## Government denies BSE-milk tests

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Editor

The government denied yesterday that it is doing research into the possibility that BSE, or mad-cow disease, might be passed on in milk. The claim followed the disclosure last week that BSE can be passed from mother to calf, and that the mechanism of such "vertical transmission" is unknown.

A government spokesman called the reports of experiments with cows' milk "absolute rubbish". The Government has denied milk could be a route of infection for the disease, or that it could pose any threat to humans. Under a long-standing rule, milk from cattle with BSE is thrown away as a precaution.

In the past decade, only one published piece of research has

examined whether BSE might be transmitted by milk: the result suggested it could not.

Media reports suggested yesterday that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) is carrying out experiments to test whether milk can carry the BSE agent. A MAFF spokesman said: "The advisory committee SEAC iterated last week that it is satisfied with the precautions

currently taken with milk, and MAFF is in agreement with that." SEAC had not asked for any further research into milk, he said.

SEAC forced the Government to announce in March that a dozen recent cases of the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) brain disorder could have been caused by exposure to the BSE agent. But cows' milk has never been implicated.

Worries have focused instead on cattle brains, spinal cords and various organs which have repeatedly been shown to be highly infective to other cattle. Some monkeys have also developed the disease after eating BSE-infected material.

Government documents suggest MAFF has never funded any studies to investigate whether milk could transmit BSE to calves. "Observations in the field support the hypothesis that it cannot," said the spokesman. In the recent experiment which showed vertical transmission, many of the calves that developed BSE and had BSE-infected mothers never had any of their mother's milk.

Since BSE was identified in 1986, the only published study into the infectivity of milk was carried out by the Institute of Animal Health in Edinburgh.

## Cheatlines to trap benefit fraudsters

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

The Government will today launch a telephone hotline inviting the public to shop benefit swindlers under the slogan "Know of a benefit rip-off? Give us a telephone tip-off".

The campaign, to be backed by a £500,000 press and poster advertising campaign, comes after the success of pilot, localised, "shop a cheat" hotlines which are claimed to have saved more than £1m.

But Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, found himself accused of double standards by launching

the scheme just a month after axing a benefit helpline, put there to ensure that those entitled to help received it.

Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrats social security spokesman, said: "The balance of the Government's benefit strategy is sadly awry. Fraud detection is taking far too high a degree of priority over entitlement to benefit. Fraud had to be tackled, but better administrative systems were preferable to cheatlines, he added."

Labour said it would support any move to cut down on the present "massive" level of social security fraud. But it was "double standards" to cut the one line

while introducing the other. "We need fairness in the system," Henry McLeish, the party's social security spokesman said.

Oliver Heald, the Social Security minister, claimed savings from fraud would go to those in need and the hotline would be self-financing. "The savings from the pilot schemes were remarkable," he said. "Together with the 21 'spotlight' campaigns - where individual areas are targeted for benefit fraud - £15m had been saved."

"We've had an overwhelming response from genuine benefit claimants who feel very strongly that other people are ripping the system off," he said.

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The Prime Minister was "pretty upset" with the six Tory MPs who voted against a ban on handguns, senior Government sources said last night. John Major and Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, are backing the need for legislation, which they expect to be called for by Lord Cullen in his report on the Dunblane massacre. Mr Forsyth has already circulated a Cabinet paper on proposals for legislation to ban the private ownership of handguns in anticipation of the Cullen report.

The Prime Minister and Michael Forsyth are both emotionally committed to action. The Prime Minister was pretty upset with the Tory MPs, the source said. Mr Major, currently on a fortnight's holiday in the South of France, has asked for Lord Cullen to report by the end of September to enable legislation to be introduced in the autumn. Colin Brown

Long waits on hospital trolleys could be ended and a repeat of last winter's scandal avoided by the adoption of a six-point plan unveiled yesterday by nurses, who urge hospitals to plan ahead for increases in emergencies during the winter months and appoint a bed manager to co-ordinate admissions.

The blueprint followed a survey showing almost half of casualty departments had patients on trolleys overnight. The study of 75 A&E units carried out by the Royal College of Nursing last winter showed the crisis was particularly severe in London, where 70 per cent had patients stuck on trolleys overnight and average waiting time was seven and a half hours. Under the Patients' Charter no one should spend more than two hours waiting on a trolley.

Two children and two adults were injured after a car veered off a seaside promenade and crashed on to a beach at Galley Hill, Bexhill in East Sussex, yesterday. A police spokesman said the car shot forward along a grass verge, struck a shelter on De La Warr Parade before veering across the promenade. It collided with iron railings along the sea front and fell 15 feet down on to the shingle beach, landing on its roof near where the two children were playing.

The four were taken to Conquest Hospital in Hastings. Police said the driver of the car and his female passenger sustained serious injuries and were being detained in hospital overnight. The children received only minor injuries after being hit by flying debris and were unlikely to be kept in hospital. The cause of the accident is not yet known. Matthew Brace

A crisis meeting to break the deadlock over the Apprentice Boys' controversial march in Londonderry next Saturday is to be held today. The Government is anxious to avoid a repeat of the widespread violence which was sparked by last month's Drumcree stand-off. Nationalists from the Bogside area, who oppose the parade route along the city's ancient walls, have set Wednesday as a deadline for agreement. The march through Londonderry by 10,000 Apprentice Boys and 180 bands would follow several earlier parades through potential flashpoint areas.

Geoff Hamilton, presenter of *Gardeners' World* on BBC2, died suddenly yesterday while taking part in a charity cycle ride. Mr Hamilton, 59, who had presented the show since 1979, fell from his bicycle near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. He had suffered a heart attack a year ago. Mr Hamilton, who trained at Writtle College of Agriculture in Essex, lived with second wife, Lynda, in Barnsdale, Rutland, where the family also runs a garden centre and nursery.

A 14-year-old stowaway was on her way home yesterday after travelling on a ferry to France without a ticket or passport. Mary Syddall, of Braintree, Essex, said Brittany Ferries would have to "answer some questions" after her daughter, Clair, boarded a ferry going from Portsmouth to St Malo. Essex Police put out an appeal after Clair, a diabetic, went missing from home on Saturday and ports were alerted. She arrived in St Malo early yesterday and was put on a ferry to Portsmouth, where her parents were waiting. Brittany Ferries has promised an investigation.

A 24-year-old woman died of head injuries when she fell while potholing in North Yorkshire, police said. Christine Bleakley, of Irthington, Co Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, was climbing in Quaking Pot at Ingleborough, near Settle, on Saturday when the accident happened.

Last Saturday's £9.7m National Lottery jackpot will be shared by four tickets. The winning numbers were 13, 17, 26, 28, 31, 36, and the bonus was 44.

### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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# Thin line guards the freedom to roam

Commerce and weakening ideals are threatening the National Parks, writes **Stephen Goodwin**

More than 100 million visits are made to National Parks in England and Wales each year. Most of the millions will not be stretching for hand-holds at the top of Troutdale Pinnacle, a classic Lake District rock-climb, or even scrambling round the Snowdon Horseshoe. They will be clustered around the ice-cream vans by the caves at Castletown in the Peak District, or perhaps spilling from their cars on Dartmoor mimicking the Hound of the Baskervilles.

But whatever their recreational bent – day-tripping, walking, climbing, cycling or watersports – visitors pour into the parks because these places are special. William Wordsworth recognised it 186 years ago when he described the Lake District as “a sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest, who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy”.

Vision became reality with the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. Within a decade, the finest 10 per cent of the landscape of England and Wales was granted special protection.

But are we living up to the ideals not just of Wordsworth, but of those who fought for the parks as an integral part of the post-war settlement? The voluntary bodies who watch over the countryside fear a weakening of the “thin green line” in the face of commercial pressures, budget cuts and government indifference. Today, quarrying, roads, tank and artillery ranges, power stations and power boats, are all jostling for space in the parks.

Amanda Nobbs, director of the Council for National Parks,

which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, is worried about protection. “Radical change will be needed to enable the new authorities to start living up to the expectations of the parks’ founders. Ministers will have to learn to say ‘no’ to some of the big threats that loom.”

The campaign for parks began in earnest in the 1930s with working-class ramblers from Manchester and Sheffield escaping the mills and steelworks to walk the Pennine moors at weekends, and higher-minded, wealthy worthies, like the Trevelyan family, seeing the hills as a place of spiritual regeneration.

The first National Park was designated in the Peak District in 1951, closely followed by the Lakes. By 1957 there were 10. The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads became parks in 1969. Most parks have to get by on the amount of money that might be allocated to a medium-sized comprehensive school, and Government support this year for the five parks in England is down to £21m.

John Toothill, National Park Officer for the Lake District, has seen his grant cut by 5.6 per cent to £3.7m this year. He predicts “difficult times” for all the parks. A big worry is the cost of public inquiries – the Lakes’ attempt to rid Windermere of power-boats has cost about £500,000 and may yet fail.

All the parks now look to the EC, the National Lottery, water companies and other sponsors, for funds. In the Peak District rangers’ Land Rovers carry the logo of Severn Trent – the outcome of a partnership deal, and, to some, a worrying trend.



Public highways: Enjoying the hard-won right to take the air on the hills, visitors climb the path to Stickle Tarn, Langdale, in Cumbria's National Park

Photographs: Tom Pilsten

## Peace amid the madding crowds

Follow the line of Nether Beck as it tumbles from Cumbria's western fells towards Wastwater and it is difficult not to think that stories of hordes of visitors loving the National Parks to death might be overblown.

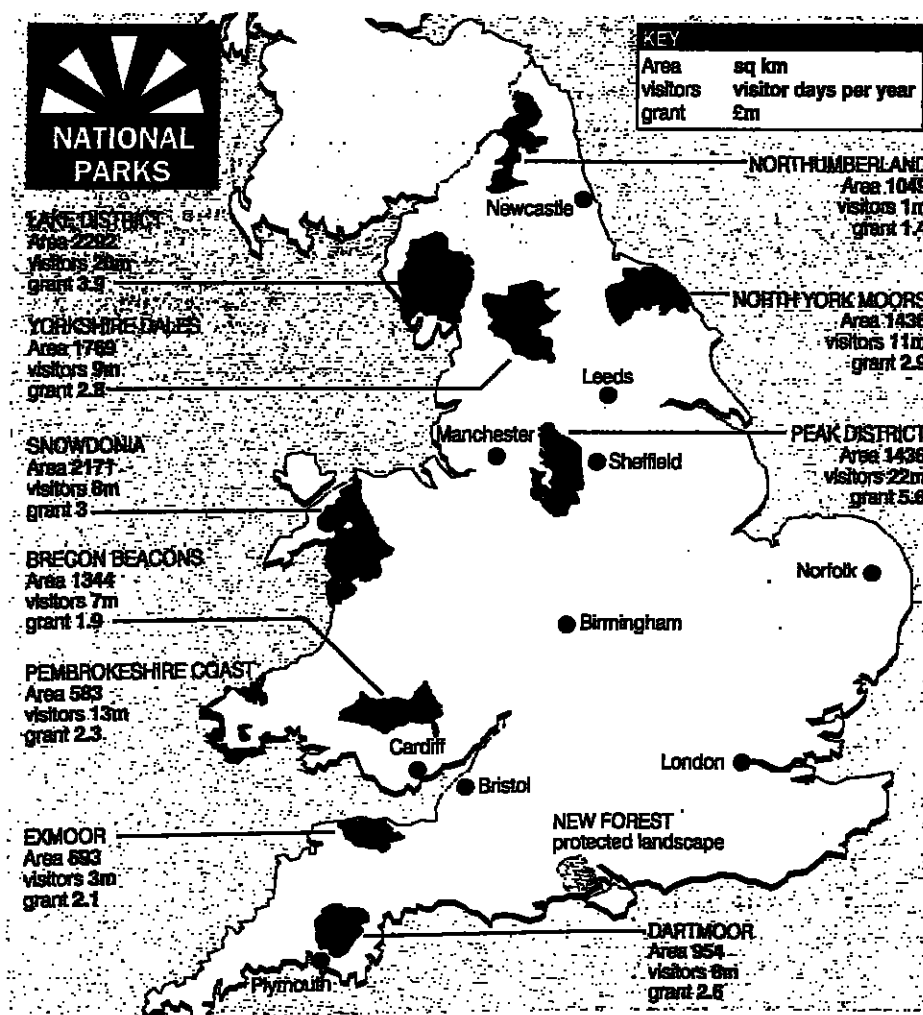
The beck-side path is plain enough on the map as a right of way. On the ground, as it climbs past the old hollies and rowans that overhang the falls and hidden swimming holes, it is less obvious.

Not many boots pass this way. Only if you follow the line on to the Mosedale horseshoe and the bulk of Pillar, one of Lake-land's highest peaks, is there a certainty of encountering other groups of walkers.

Yet the Lake District National Park reckons it gets 20 million day visits a year and the Peak District has just come up with a boggling figure of up to 31 million. Only the Mount Fuji park in Japan gets more.

Four out of five visitors are apparently happy to admire the parks from their cars or take a walk of no more than two miles. If, as the original campaigners believed, the parks are places where the urban masses should be able to breathe cleaner air and refresh the spirit, then the 100 million visits made each year should be a mark of success.

That was certainly the relaxed view of the late Tom Stephenson, father of the Pennine Way, even when confronted with the boot-made scars across peat moors at the start of his trail. But to local people, unless they are in the tourist trade, visitors are often an irritant, blocking narrow lanes with cars, fright-



ening the sheep with their dogs, and bringing their noisy children into the pubs for bar meals.

Of course, the visitors would be there whether Whitehall had designated the area a Na-

tional Park or not. The status actually means more money and co-ordination in managing the numbers. For farmers, who often regard ramblers as a pain, there is help with dry-stone

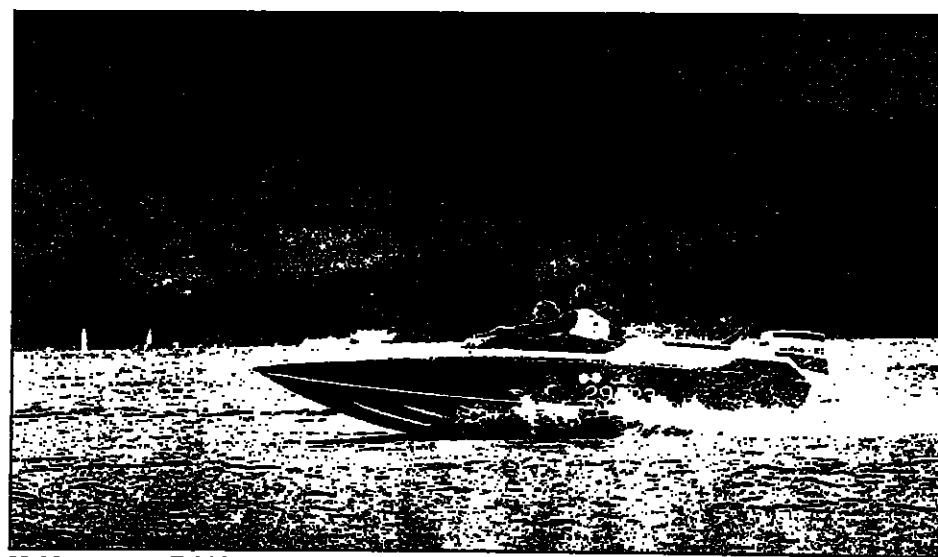
walling and a plethora of grants. In Swaledale and Arkenaghdale, North Yorkshire, more than 200 barns and 8kms of walls have been repaired, the value of the work exceeding £1m.

Tourism earns £75m a year for the Peak District economy. There is some resentment of trippers, but in the down-to-earth way of Derbyshire folk, it is not strongly felt. Contrast the sense of hostility to outsiders in the Welsh parks – even while taking their money – and the touch of superiority in the Lakes, a place for “persons of pure taste”, according to Wordsworth.

The Peak is also way ahead in traffic management. It is a case of “needs must” with about 17 million people living within an hour or so's drive. Park-and-ride schemes operate in the Goyt and Upper Derwent valleys and at the Roaches, a gritstone outcrop where climbers' cars would clog the verge. The Peak supports bus and train services to the tune of £150,000 a year.

“We have to persuade visitors that bringing their cars in does create all sort of problems and that public transport is a viable alternative,” says Martin Doughty, the Peak park authority chairman. But it has to be done on a shoestring. Government funding for the Peak is down by 10 per cent to £5.2m for this year. “Providing constructive measures to cope with the ever-increasing tide of visitors is more and more difficult,” Mr Doughty warns.

Other parks are also promoting public transport. But the Lake District provoked cries of outrage from tourism and business lobbies when it suggested restricting traffic up some valleys. Much back-peddling followed and the initiative is likely to be limited to traffic calming and the promotion of public transport and cycling.



Making waves: 7,000 power boats register for Windermere each year

## Lakes fight for a quiet corner

When the Government turned its back on the recommendation of its own countryside advisers that the peace of National Parks would be better protected if recreation was restricted to “quiet” enjoyment, the biggest cheer was from power boat sailors, motorbike trail riders and those who like to pit their 4x4 vehicles against the mud and ruts of “green roads”.

As Ian Mercer, secretary general of the Association of National Parks, observed: “No-one is more truculent than the Briton at leisure.” Quiet enjoyment was one the principles at the heart of the Countryside Commission's *Fit for the Future* parks review of 1991, but ministers were swayed by a powerful motorist lobby, including the RAC.

The Lake District has spent £500,000 of its slender resources trying to get boat

speeds on Lake Windermere limited to 10 mph. The park and the power boaters are now awaiting the outcome of a public inquiry into the proposed speed limit. There is a fear in the conservationist camp that the lack of a “quiet enjoyment” rule in the 1995 Environment Act will play a significant part in Secretary of State John Gummer's decision.

Some 7,000 power boats each year register to go on the lake – the only one in the park where they are permitted. The restriction would sink water skiers, who need a minimum speed of 18 mph, and ban the noisy, but increasingly popular, scooter-like jet skis. Windermere is England's largest lake, 10.5 miles long, but relatively narrow. On a busy day up to 1,500 craft use it, from 70mph power boats to canoesists.

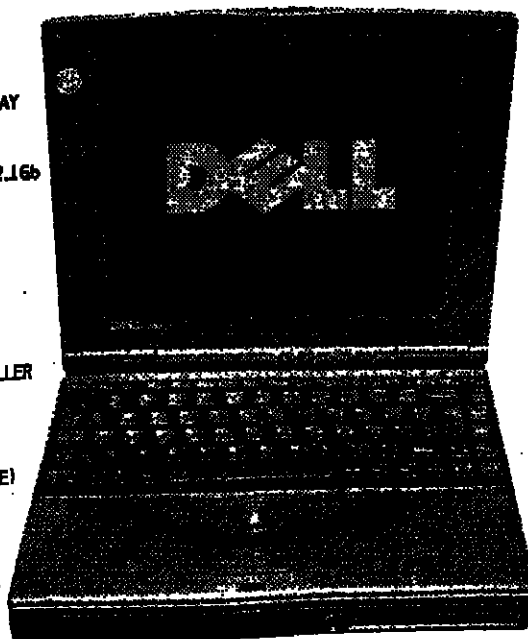
dermere ranger, says: “We have to decide as a nation what we want from these parks. Do we want somewhere where people can enjoy themselves like a seaside town or do we say we are keeping these as special areas?” Mr Hill wants the latter.

The Lakes has come to an understanding with the all-terrain set – no formal closure moves by the park in exchange for voluntary restraint where tracks are badly eroded. Problems continue on the North York Moors and in the Brecon Beacons, where 4x4s are churning up Sarn Helen Roman road.

Tim Stevens, information officer of the 4x4 and trail riders umbrella body the Land Access and Recreation Association, argues that a horse clattering over a stony track makes as much noise as his trail bike. “Democracy isn't just about majority rules OK,” he says.

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## news

# Gaelic teacher takes tradition to the wee bairns of Mull

MATTHEW BRACE

When Angus MacNeil steps off the MacBraynes ferry on to the shores of the Isle of Mull this week, he will make history. He is the Hebridean island's first Gaelic-medium teacher for centuries and one of a growing band encouraged by activists resurrecting the fading Gaelic language in Scotland.

Mr MacNeil (Aonghas Briannan Macneil in Gaelic) will begin the autumn term at a primary school in Salen, a small village of grey-slated houses and crofts on the island's east coast, where he will teach the entire school curriculum in Gaelic as well as in English. Although few of his pupils come from Gaelic-speaking homes, some will already have grasped basic words from attending a Gaelic playgroup run by enthusiastic parents in Mull's harbour town of Tobermory. "I grew up speaking Gaelic,

## Words ancient and modern

Gaelic originated in Ireland and was carried to Scotland in the 5th century, where it developed into a separate dialect. Whereas Irish Gaelic is an official language of the Republic of Ireland, its Scottish equivalent enjoys no such status. The classic black-and-white comedy film *Whiskey Galore*, about the shipwrecking of a cargo of whiskey off the island of Barra in the Outer Hebrides, is aptly named. Both words in the title are Gaelic, as are several other pre-war words including *glenn*, *loch*, *plannagan*, *clan* and *slogan*.

It's my language, so I'm very proud to be the first Gaelic-medium teacher on Mull," he said from his home on the Isle of Barra in the Outer Hebrides, 70 miles west of Mull. "Gaelic is not a dead language. You should have been here in the pub last night - it certainly wasn't dead then."

For years those loyal to the language (dubbed the Gaelic Mafia) have heralded a Gaelic renaissance. But it has been slow in coming and the number of Gaelic speakers continues to fall. The latest figures

show that only 60,000 speak it, less than 1 per cent of Scots.

However, the activists, led by Comunn na Gàidhlig, an Inverness-based cultural group funded by the Scottish Office and local authorities, have increased the number of playgroups and schools that teach in Gaelic. Their predictions show that by weaning a new generation on the language, its decline will bottom out in the next ten years.

There were just two Gaelic-medium schools in 1985. Now there are 50, and 142 Gaelic

playgroups, compared to four in 1982.

Roy Peterson, of Comunn na Gàidhlig, insists the language will survive, and said a key task would be to turn around the age profile so "Gaelic will become increasingly spoken as the language of young people".

The expansion of Gaelic education is one of several signs that Gaelic is being taken more seriously. The Government currently spends £13m on the provision of services and development through Gaelic, and Gaelic in tourism is growing.

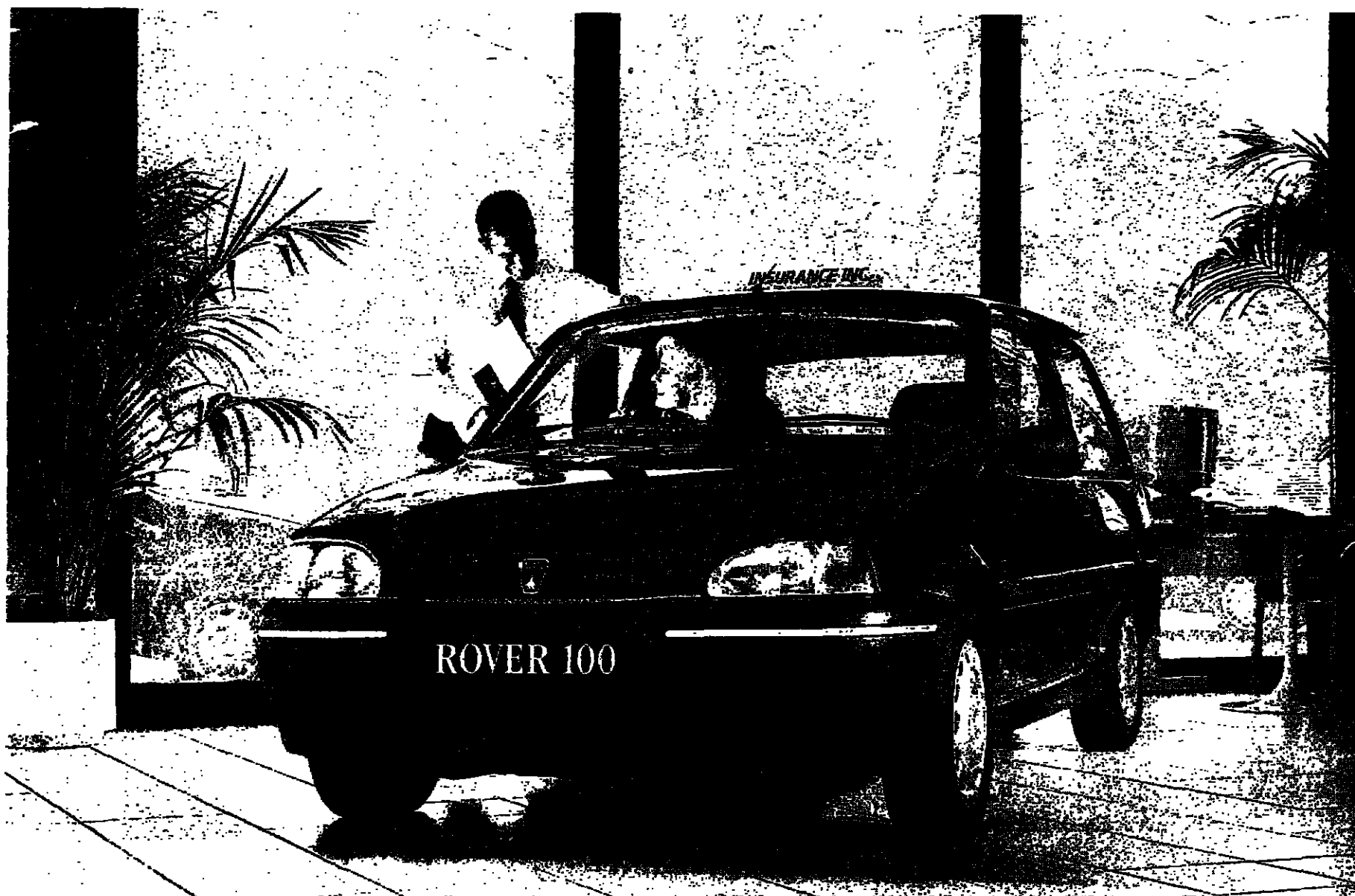
But, for teachers and parents of children at the Gaelic Playgroup in Tobermory, Mr MacNeil's appointment is the highlight of the summer.

"It's great news," said Chrissy McDonald, who teaches at the playgroup. "We can't wait for him to get here. As well as being our first Gaelic teacher, he's also very handsome, so he's bound to be popular."



Ex libris: Angus MacNeil, the first Gaelic-medium teacher to work on the Isle of Mull

Photograph: Colin McPherson



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## Aslef chief tells Blair to keep union ties

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair faced fresh warnings last night from a union "dinosaur" against distancing Labour from the unions for "fair weather friends" who had joined the party in its resurgence under his leadership.

Lew Adams, leader of the rail union, Aslef, which is involved in the series of one-day strikes on the London Underground, also accused Mr Blair of reneging on promises to make British Rail publicly owned and publicly accountable.

Mr Adams will be seen as a voice from "Old Labour" and he attacked "stupid politicians", including the Prime Minister, on GMTV for calling him a dinosaur and Aslef headquarters Jurassic Park.

But his remarks highlighted the view among party traditionalists that the modernisers have to be checked in their zeal to ditch "Old Labour" baggage.

"At the moment we hear people say that Labour has got 100,000 new members. Well some of those are fair weather friends that are here while the 'in' word is to be a member of the Labour party."

But the Labour Party was there to represent the workers, in industry, within transport and all other spheres of life.

His warning came with renewed reports that Mr Blair is planning to further distance Labour from the unions after the election. There were weekend reports that he will opt for state funding of parties, ending the union sponsorship which the Conservatives have claimed has made the unions the paymasters of Mr Blair's New Labour.

Senior colleagues will be alarmed by any move by Mr Blair to further weaken union ties. The Labour leader has given private assurances to some colleagues, including John Prescott, the deputy leader, that there will be no divorce between the party and the unions.

The leadership has repeatedly denied it is seeking to end the links with the unions, but that has failed to stop suspicions being raised among the union leaders.

A survey in the *Sunday Times* yesterday of 100 senior trade unionists showed that a third believed Mr Blair would sever Labour links with the unions after the election, and a third said they were ready to withhold payments to the party because they were losing influence.

Mr Adams also said Labour was moving away from its commitment to ensure that Rail-track was publicly owned and publicly accountable, and he said it was "sad" to see the demotion of Clare Short, the former Transport spokesperson. "Let's be honest with people instead of trying to get votes on a populist theme. Bash the trade unions - a few extra votes, I don't think so."

Glenda Jackson, promoted in the shadow ministerial reshuffle by Mr Blair to become number two to Andrew Smith at Transport, published a dossier accusing the Tories of 10 lies about rail privatisation.

Ms Jackson said the "lies" included John Major's assurance that privatisation of British Rail would ensure passengers got a better deal. The managers at the Porterbrook train leasing company had earned £80m last week in the sale to Stagecoach.

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# Doctors defend abortion of twin

GLENDIA COOPER

A gynaecologist's decision to abort one of a pair of healthy twins was "no different to any other abortion" doctors said yesterday.

But anti-abortion organisations warned that the effect on the surviving twin and the mother herself could be "horrifying". In what is believed to be the first "selective termination" of its kind in Britain, Phillip Bennett, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London has agreed to terminate one foetus because the mother has said she could not cope with two babies.

Selective termination is usually used when *in vitro* fertilisation results in a multiple pregnancy. Doctors can choose to abort one of the foetuses if it shows a sign of abnormality or if a high number of embryos implant in the womb, increasing the risk of complications. The technique involves piercing the selected foetus with a needle, although this can increase the risk of the others miscarrying. The dead foetus is carried to full term, shrivelling in the womb. In 1994 there were 73 selective terminations, compared with 32 in 1993.

"Killing one healthy twin sounds unethical," Professor Bennett told a Sunday newspaper yesterday. "But my colleague and I concluded this week that it would be better to terminate one pregnancy as soon as possible and leave one alive than to lose two babies."

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, head of ethics for the British Medical Association said the decision was bound to cause "instinctive horror" but could be justified legally on medical grounds because multiple births carry more risks, or social

grounds if the woman could not cope with twins.

"I don't think there's really any difference between performing an abortion to leave no foetus and reducing a twin to a singleton," she said. "It's exactly the same as any other abortion at 16 weeks."

David Panton, chairman of the Birth Control Trust agreed: "It is a very difficult situation but a termination is the same whether for twins or a single pregnancy. It is only allowed on the grounds listed in the Abortion Act."

He said that if he had been asked he would have carried out the selective termination: "The dilemma is that she says she can cope with one child but not two. If a woman who is 16 weeks pregnant feels so strongly that she cannot cope one of the options must be selective reduction."

But a spokesman for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists said that he thought most gynaecologists would not be prepared to terminate one foetus only.

Wendy Savage, press officer for Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion, warned that aborting one twin could have severe repercussions for both mother and surviving twin: "If this woman came to me and said that she couldn't cope on the grounds of mental health, I would want to involve a psychiatrist or a psychologist," she said. "When you have got twins and one of them is aborted, you have the live twin in front of you as a constant reminder."

Professor John Scarisbrick, chairman of Life, an anti-abortion organisation, described it as a "horrifying story". "What will happen if the surviving twin discovers that a brother or sister is missing and that this is his or her mother's fault? What will this do for the trust and love in the family?" he said.

Writing up the numbers: British storytellers take their cut as film makers bid millions for a good plot



Streep and Eastwood in *The Bridges of Madison County* by Robert James Waller (top right), Robert Harris (centre) and Anna Pasternak (below) have sold film rights to their own novels

## Hollywood feeding frenzy hits the book world

REBECCA FOWLER

The final chapter has not even been written, the debts are mounting, previous rejection letters are in the bin - then comes the call from Hollywood. An anonymous band of British writers are living happily ever after in a wave of record-breaking deals to buy the rights of their books for film.

This month, John Grisham, the American king of the courtroom drama, is expected to sell his latest novel, *The Runaway Jury*, to Hollywood for an unprecedented \$8m as part of the most lucrative writing career in Hollywood history. But the Brits are hot on his trail with a pile of blockbuster thrillers and romances.

As part of his own bid to become a top player in the film world, Mick Jagger, with a Hollywood studio, has bought the rights to *Enigma*, the wartime spy novel by Robert Harris. Harris is one of the band of top British writers dubbed "storytellers", of works which blur the traditional literary and commercial divide.

Jagger paid \$400,000 with Paramount for *Enigma*, which tells the story of the Bletchley wartime intelligence team that cracked Nazi codes. Such was the favour surrounding film rights for the book, which will be adapted by Tom Stoppard, that Elizabeth Hurley and Hugh Grant also put in a bid for their own film company.

But even with this hand-

some sum, Harris is only on the first rung a golden ladder of record-breaking deals. Hollywood's *Daily Variety* said of Grisham's asking price: "An \$8m pay-day would raise eyebrows, but no studio has yet regretted cutting John Grisham a big cheque."

The first British novelist to break into the multi-million club was Nicholas Evans with the *Horse Whisperer*, the story of a family whose daughter is horribly injured in a riding accident. He sold the novel for more than £2m, when it was half finished, in a frenzied bidding process led by Robert Redford, who will play the lead.

Caradoc King, Evans's agent, described the hysteria last year: "Once we'd had that first offer

of a million we had Spielberg's office ringing. By Tuesday we were receiving numerous calls from Hollywood producers, but we wanted an outright sell. Anyone who offered \$3m could speak to Nick Evans."

The deal put Evans, a formerly debt-ridden freelance film producer from Stockwell in south London, on a footing with the biggest players, including Michael Crichton who received only half Evans's advance for *Jurassic Park*, and Grisham, who broke records when he received £2.3m for *The Chamber*.

For the studios, Evans' novel had the winning smack of *The Bridges of Madison County*, a romance written by Robert James Waller, an economics professor, which sold 10m

copies and was adapted for the screen starring Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood.

The courting of the "storytellers" is in stark contrast to the traditional image of writers in Hollywood, where until recently even the most revered novelists were paid relatively modestly. When Graham Greene wrote *The Third Man*, he was paid £9,000, a generous figure for the time.

The process is not always smooth according to the writer Anna Pasternak, who sold her account of the affair between Princess Diana and Major James Hewitt to an American network for a substantial sum. Pasternak said: "You start reading the script and you realise they're not making a film of

your book. In the end... you take the money and run."

The record-breaking deals involved must help to encourage stoicism. Among the "storytellers" who have been wooed by Hollywood is Philip Kerr, from Wimbledon, south-west London, who was paid \$1m for *Glidron*, the story of a building that takes revenge on its occupants. Earlier this year he was given a reputed £1m advance by John Cruise for a 10-page summary of his next book.

Kerr thought of the plot for the idea, entitled *A Five-year Plan*, on a flight to Edinburgh last summer. After signing the deal he said: "I went home and wrote the outline the following weekend. Now I've just got to start writing the book."

## Police called to help fashion new look

JOJO MOYES

Britain's police could get a new look after officers have their say on how their "bulky and hot" uniforms could be updated.

As part of a police working group, a questionnaire is being sent to around 12,000 police officers in England and Wales asking whether the traditional

helmet should be kept, as well as what they think about the rest of their uniform.

Metropolitan Police federation branch chairman Mike Bennett said there were some "weird suggestions being put about", including Bermuda shorts in summer. Police in Manchester had already opted for caps rather than helmets, he

said, adding: "There are people who say they don't want the helmet - but the flat cap gives you no protection whatsoever."

Manchester police had also opted for a blouson instead of the tunic. But Mr Bennett said this was not popular in the Met: "We live in an age of anoraks and I think the anorak meets all the criteria that indi-

viduals want in the modern age." He added that assurances had been given that officers in London would not lose the helmet - one of the capital's most distinctive sights for tourists.

The results of the survey are likely to be published in October and will go to the Association of Chief Police Officers' Uniform Project Group.

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## news

# Home is sweet for Ireland's children

An economic and cultural boom has turned the tide of emigration, writes Alan Murdoch

One of the greatest population upheavals of the 19th and 20th centuries has all but come to an end, according to Irish census figures published this week. More people are returning to enjoy the country's sustained economic boom than are leaving.

In each of the last five years, the average number of those returning has been 637 more than those leaving – a dramatic reversal of the mid 1980s, when 26,834 more people were leaving each year. Between 1982 and 1989, one in 20 of the population left what many then saw as a near-bankrupt state, with a foreign debt crisis, spiralling unemployment and penal levels of personal taxation.

Apart from one other brief period in the short-lived economic boom of the 1970s, the exodus has continued for 150 years. Pre-famine Ireland supported a population of 8.2 million in 1841, declining to 6.5 million in 1851. This week's census result shows the Irish Republic has 3,621,035 inhabitants and Northern Ireland 1,577,836 (1991 census). In the US, the destination for many emigrants, more than 40 million American citizens claim Irish descent.

After independence in 1922, economic stagnation and limited employment for both graduates and unskilled labour drove thousands abroad to Britain, the United States, Canada, and Australia. Census figures show this human procession peaked in the bleak years of the Forties and Fifties.

Depopulation was felt most keenly in rural parts of the south and west, marked by declining school numbers and increasingly aged populations. Dying rural villages entered the national culture in books such as John Healy's *No One Shouted Stop* and numerous plays, including Tom Murphy's *Conversations on a Homecoming*. "Emigrants' remittances", funds sent back regularly by family members in jobs in the US, helped sustain otherwise deprived households.

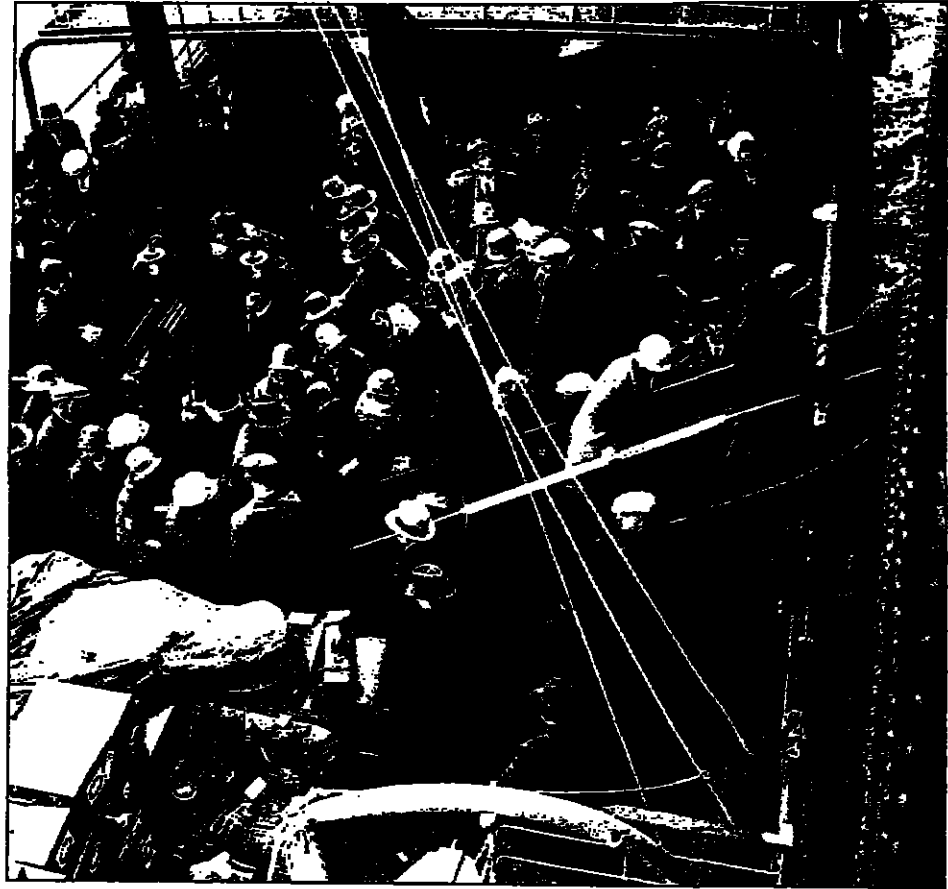
But now it seems there could be a permanent reversal. Ireland's surging economic growth rate of 7 per cent is the highest in the EU (1995 GNP volume growth estimate) while exports rose 16 per cent last year. Key successes have been in inward high-tech investment, tourism and service sectors.

The revival has also seen stereotyped foreign images of a misty country of bogs, dairy farms and narrow-minded Catholicism superseded by overseas interest in new Irish music, literature, art, theatre, and football.

Nowadays, more young Irish work nearer home in mainland Europe, and cheaper air transport allows more regular trips back, so departure is not as traumatic as 50 or 150 years ago. Then, parents knew the



Faces of a nation: An Irishman and his daughter on their way to a new life (above). Ocean liners took thousands to Europe and the US; below, a crowd is transferring to a liner from a smaller boat (Photographs: Daily Mirror/Hulton Getty). Left: Emigration a century earlier



tearful "emigrant's wake" could be their final contact with a son or daughter.

Indeed, according to Jillian Mulcahy, co-ordinator of the High Skills Pool, which helps link prospective employers with potential employees, the average planned stay abroad for young Irish today is five to ten years, by which time the majority intend to return and settle down.

The Pool was set up by Dublin Institute of Technology professors who were concerned at the numbers of graduates going overseas and the consequent brain drain.

"After three years we had 5,500 overseas Irish contacts. We also do an airport questionnaire at Dublin and Cork and every Christmas, when thousands of people come home for the holiday, and we

hold a recruitment fair the following week," said Ms Mulcahy.

A newsletter with eleven issues annually advises emigrants of new business start-ups, expansions and vacancies, while a magazine, *Inform*, reaches 6,500 graduates. The government is also encouraging the return of graduates, by developing a database identifying Irish working overseas; in effect, a worldwide Irish employment agency.

## Top dogs in the salary stakes revealed

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

It has always been obvious that if you want to make a lot of money you would go into the City rather than anything really useful like medicine or engineering. But this is ridiculous: a "dog groomer" earns more than a junior hospital doctor, on a salary of £16,000 as opposed to £14,740-£16,640.

This is one of the findings of the annual salary survey in the September edition of *Esquire* magazine. The league table confirms the suspicion that, roughly speaking, the greater a job's contribution to society, the lower the pay.

At the bottom of the scale are those who feed us, teach us, make us better when we are ill, carry out research to improve the quality of our life or wear a uniform to protect us. A starting salary in catering is only £7,300. It climbs to just under £12,000 in further education. A laboratory technician can expect to start on £13,000. A squaddie will make only £10,746 and a young police constable will earn £14,412 a year.

Admittedly, someone who climbs the ranks to chief constable will earn just under £90,000, but that pales into insignificance compared with the six-figure salaries in banking or public relations.

Civil Service pay does not compare as badly as it did a decade ago. The range for permanent secretaries is £90,000-£154,400, and the senior bands are all above £38,000. The Lord Chief Justice is on £132,178 – peanuts by the standards of a top commercial barrister making half a million, however.

Whitehall is also doing very nicely compared to the rest of the public sector. An NHS consultant's basic salary can climb to £53,900, and top whack for a principal lecturer in higher education is £32,030.

Among those striking for more pay at the moment, postal workers make a modest £14,880 basic. Drivers on London Underground are on £24,650.

MPs did not have to go on strike. They negotiated with themselves and settled on a 26 per cent rise to £43,000 from the current £34,085 (plus office allowance of £42,754). Many people would agree that the rule of thumb that the higher the pay the lower the usefulness is clearly in operation here.

Only the Royal Family is better paid than the country's top earners. The Queen gets £7.9m a year, the equivalent of more than 478 junior doctors. It makes the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester a snip at £175,000, or only ten and a half dog groomers, for that matter, in a comparison that will make more sense to royalty.

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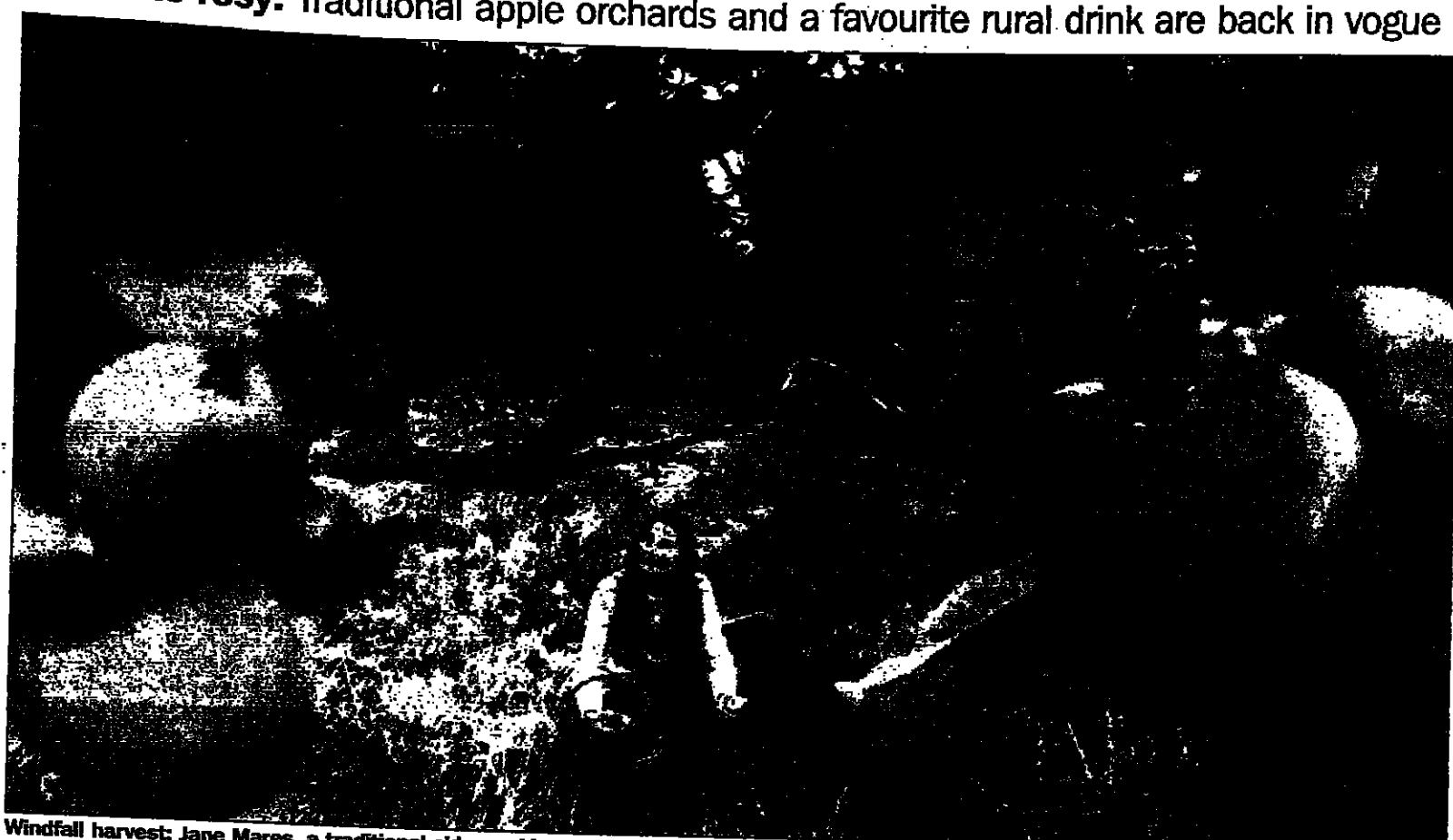
**INDEPENDENT**  
ON SUNDAY

**THE INDEPENDENT**

WARNING – BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.



**Cider is rosy:** Traditional apple orchards and a favourite rural drink are back in vogue



Windfall harvest: Jane Mares, a traditional cider-making enthusiast, collects apples from Old Cleeve Orchard

Photograph: Christopher Jones

## Scrumpy on tap as trees bear fruit

REBECCA FOWLER

A soft red blush has returned to Somerset with the scent of half-ripe apples. After nearly a century of decline, the county's orchards are coming back to life, and cider-makers are expecting their best harvest since before the Second World War.

The campaign to restore the traditional apple trees that once flourished in villages, has coincided with a booming demand for scrumpy, viewed until recently as the drink of old drunks and hapless adolescents.

Steve Scriven, who helped launch the campaign for Somerset County Council, said: "It's so much part of our rural heritage. After the war we lost so many orchards, but we are beginning to see a return to what was - the change in the image of cider has boosted interest



'People are waking up to the fact that so many orchards have been lost'

enormously." In their heyday, orchards could number up to 20 in one village, and farmers paid labourers in scrumpy, but, by the end of the last century, the clergy was anxious to outlaw payment by alcohol. The number of orchards in Somerset declined by 60 per cent after the war, replaced by the Orchard Avenues of property developers and less traditional crops backed by government subsidies.

But Mr Scriven estimates that 14,000 new trees have been planted on 420 orchards in the past decade. At the same time, the cider market has doubled and Britain is expected to produce more than 115,000 gallons this year and 120,000 gallons a year by 2000.

At Old Cleeve, in west

Somerset, villagers are preparing for their first harvest in a decade. Their orchard, owned by the Crown Estate, was to be felled for house-building until earlier this year. But, Jeanne Webb, 51, persuaded the Prince of Wales to plant the first new tree in March. In September the parish will sign a lease for £250 to grow apples for the local cider-producers.

Mrs Webb said: "People are waking up to the fact so many of our orchards have been lost, the ones that are left are treasures. We hope this one will pay its own way and always be there for future generations. We'll sell the apples to a local cider-maker and, when we get going, maybe market our own cider."

The largest cider-producers in Somerset have depended heavily on apple concentrate from abroad, but are now being encouraged by campaigners, including West Somerset District Council - which launched an orchard scheme last week - to use more local apples, such as the variety, Dunning Russet, which dates back centuries.

The Old Cleeve orchard will also revive another tradition. Gerald Stowell, 66, a retired railway clerk, has been appointed chief wassailer and will lead the New Year appeal to the fertility gods for a good harvest. "Wassailing is a very important part of the tradition and it will bring the whole village together. It's important to keep these rituals going."

Among the cider-producers who may buy apples from the orchard is Jill Gillman, 51, whose orchard, Torre Far in Washford, has 12,000 trees. She is anticipating the best year yet since she and her husband started making scrumpy eight years ago. "We are planting our own trees but have nowhere near enough for the cider we need to make to satisfy demand."

For some, the harvest is already overflowing. Inch Cider, which uses apples from Somerset and Devon, is recalling thousands of bottles of scrumpy which could explode due to the potency of their content. Phil Collins, a company spokesman, said: "There's no health risk, but consumers are being advised not to move the jars, but to wait for them to be taken away."

## GPs lose out on summer breaks

LOUISE JURY

Family doctors are being forced to abandon their summer holidays because of a shortage of locum GPs to look after their patients. Many are unlikely to get away this year, while the situation is so bad in Essex that some doctors have not had a holiday in five years.

The problem is an escalation of long-term shortages of GPs as more medical students decide against working in general practice combined with stricter rules on who can work as a locum. Since January, only those trained for general practice have been able to act as locums, which rules out other doctors, such as retired surgeons.

Dr Lawrence Singer, chairman of the Association of Small Practices in Essex, said they frequently debated frequently how difficult it was for solo practitioners to find a locum. It was

particularly bad in rural areas. "We have a number of members who haven't had a holiday for four or five years," he said. "The problem is getting progressively worse. My day is from 7am to 10pm and you can't get people to stand in for that."

Dr Bob Button, secretary of the Hampshire local medical committee, said there were problems. "But going away can be the least of it. It's when a GP suddenly drops down ill that it's much more troublesome."

When one GP had to go into hospital recently, the health authority could find no locum and another practice had to take over the patients. "It is a problem the Government has been ignoring for a long time," he said.

Frances Cloyne, the Wessex faculty manager for the Royal College of General Practitioners, said research they were carrying out produced pleas from 30 practices for help in finding

locums with only 25 operating in the area. "Obviously there is a need out there. I know from experience that GPs are having difficulties, particularly for the summer holidays."

Jayne Mills, who runs the Taunton GP Locum Agency in Somerset, said the situation was "reasonably serious with the potential to get a lot worse".

"All the locums are booked to the hilt to September. Until last night I had 60 sessions that I didn't think I was going to be able to fill, but someone has come back from abroad for three months and is helping out," she said. "There are always pressures because of holidays, but the feedback this year is 'We're not going to get away this year'."

Research carried out by Professor Ray Robinson at Southampton University showed that trying to find a locum was one of the greatest pressures on a single-handed practice.



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### DAILY POEM

#### Vowels

By Arthur Rimbaud

Black A, white E, red I, green U, blue O - vowels,  
Some day I will open your silent pregnancies:  
I, black bell, hairy with burst flies,  
Rumbling and buzzing over stinking cruelties,

His of night; E, candor of sand and pavilions,  
High glacial spears, white kings, trembling Queen

Anne's lace  
I, bloody spile, laughter dribbling from a face  
In wild dental or in anger, vermillions;

U... divine movement of viridian seas,  
Peace of pastures animal-strewn, peace of calm lines  
Drawn on foreheads worn with heavy alchemies;

O... supreme Trumpet, harsh with strange stridences,  
Silence traced in angels and astral designs:  
O... OMEGA... the violet light of His Eyes!

Arthur Rimbaud (1854-1891), poet and adventurer, wrote the body of his verse between the ages of 15 and 20. It is still amongst the most important French poetry ever written, stunningly modern in its imagery and fragmented technique in a century that favoured the oblique and sentimental. Rimbaud's short life was colourful and dramatic. A love affair with Verlaine ended when Verlaine shot him in the wrist in a fit of jealousy. Rimbaud fled to Ethiopia where he lived on and off until his death.

## international

Bosnia: Danger of partition if West backs down

## Divided Mostar presents stark choice to EU

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

European leaders today face one of their toughest choices yet in former Yugoslavia: either to carry out a threat to end European Union administration of the divided town of Mostar, or to back down and open the way to partition.

An end to EU administration would help to torpedo the town's peaceful reconstruction – but the alternative would give the green light to a Croat partition of the Muslim-Croat federation.

Western governments were searching yesterday for ways to put pressure on President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia after his Bosnian Croat clients in Mostar refused to join a unified City Council. The EU and United States regard this as a deliberate blow at the Dayton peace settlement and an attempt to keep alive the option of partitioning Bosnia.

Mostar has been divided since the Muslim-Croat war of 1993-94, which left a Croat-controlled western sector and a Muslim-held east. The US is urging the EU not to walk away from Mostar, but the Bosnian Croat defiance of the EU underlines that the Europeans will need to rely on US diplomatic pressure if the Croats are to be brought into line.

The Bosnian Croats have refused to take up their seats on Mostar's council on the grounds that the city's elections last June were marred by fraud in polling stations abroad where Muslim refugees voted. The elections produced a narrow victory for a Muslim-led coalition and were declared fair by the EU, which viewed the Croat objections as a smokescreen for their policy of maintaining a Croat political entity in Bosnia.

"The only people who are going to be drinking champagne in Mostar now are the [Croat] thugs, gangs and criminals," said the EU's administrator, Sir Martin Garrod, after Bosnian Croat leaders failed to meet a deadline of midnight on Saturday for agreeing to join the City Council.

Western governments believe the Bosnian Croat intransigence sets a dangerous precedent for Bosnia's first post-war general elections next month, which are supposed to help re-unite the country. They also blame much of the crisis on Mr Tudjman, since he has encouraged the Bosnian Croats' separatist ambitions.

"We are outraged by the Croat behaviour," a senior US official said. "What point is there in holding elections in September if one side knows that if they are disappointed with the results they can ignore

the fact that the voting every took place?" The US was angry because it arranged a meeting in Washington last week between Mr Tudjman and President Bill Clinton, who urged Croatia to apply the necessary pressure on the Bosnian Croats.

Croatia enjoyed US support in the latter stages of the war in former Yugoslavia because the US regarded the Bosnian Serbs as the main problem, but US officials have warned the Croats that they will become "international pariahs" if they sabotage the Dayton settlement.

During last weekend's negotiations, the EU asked Muslim and Croat leaders to sign an agreement pledging co-operation with the EU administration of Mostar and attendance at the City Council. The Muslims agreed, but half an hour before the deadline the Croats refused to sign.

In a separate development, the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, indicated that Britain was opposed to any attempt by Nato to seize Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader and indicted war criminal. "If Karadzic were to be snatched, my judgement is that we would put at risk, we might sacrifice, American, British, French lives," he said. "It's a very sombre calculation that would have to be made."

Leading article, page 11



You need hands: A father and son at a mass in a destroyed Catholic church in Sarajevo yesterday. Attacks on churches and mosques in Bosnia have increased. Photograph: Reuters

## De Gaulle's spiritual heirs pay homage to Debré

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

France's Gaullist clan will turn out in force today in the Loire city of Amboise for the funeral of Michel Debré, one of the party's last living links with President Charles de Gaulle. Debré, who died on Friday at the age of 84 at his home in the nearby village of Montlouis-sur-Loire, was De Gaulle's first prime minister and revered as one of the chief architects of the 1958 Constitution.

The mourning will be led by President Jacques Chirac, who built much of his presidential campaign and the first year of his presidency around his claim to be the spiritual heir of De Gaulle. He will be accompanied by the head of the Gaullist RPR party and Prime Minister, Alain Juppé.

Most members of the Gaullist-led coalition government and a number of MPs are also likely to be in attendance, many of them breaking their holidays to show their Gaullist allegiance. Although Debré, a lawyer, had significant ideological differences with De Gaulle – notably over France's place in Europe and independence for Algeria – the differences were such as to mark Debré during his lifetime as "almost more Gaullist than De Gaulle".

The announcement of Debré's death at the weekend was followed by a succession of tributes that illustrated not only the esteem in which Debré was held, but also the continuing strength of the Gaullists' clan loyalty.

Tributes poured in, the first from Mr Juppé who is still struggling to establish his authority at the head of the RPR party, and described Debré as "a great statesman whose sole ambition was to serve France".

Characteristically, the mood – and political usefulness of Debré's memory in the current political context – was caught by President Chirac, who described him as "a reference and an example" who personified "rigour, high moral standards, a sense of what is meant by the State, and unfailing loyalty to the founder of the Fifth Republic" – that is, De Gaulle.

Some of the earliest tributes came from the younger and most politically astute members of the government: from Margie Sudre, the minister for the Francophone world – a native of Réunion, the island for which Debré was MP for many years – and Hervé Gayraud, the junior health minister, who at 38 is the youngest member of the government. To hear from their lips the sort of reverential sentiments uttered by politicians 20 and 30 years their senior was to appreciate the awe in which

De Gaulle is still held and the extent to which the authority and unity of today's Gaullists rests on his memory.

Today, in his oration, President Chirac is likely to capitalise on Debré's role as a founding father of the Fifth Republic, but he will doubtless also take the opportunity to claim legitimacy for his current policies from their "Gaullist" origins. Paradoxically, these are the very



De Gaulle: Held in awe



Chirac: Leading mourning

same policies on which Debré was personally least in agreement with De Gaulle: Europe and the nation state, independent Algeria and defence policy.

A month ago, the announcement of cuts in the French armed forces and final arrangements for the ending of conscription was accompanied by the presentation to Mr Chirac – by the defence minister – of an original De Gaulle document: a letter the young Lieutenant-Colonel Charles de Gaulle had written in 1935, arguing for France's armed forces to be fully professional. The letter, which had been bought by the Defence Ministry when it came up for auction a few months before, was used to prove the incontrovertibly Gaullist character of reforms that are unwelcome to a large section of the French military.

According to one French obituary writer, Michel Debré was anguished in his later years by the question of how it was possible to be a Gaullist without De Gaulle. "Perhaps," said the commentator, "Jacques Chirac supplies the answer."

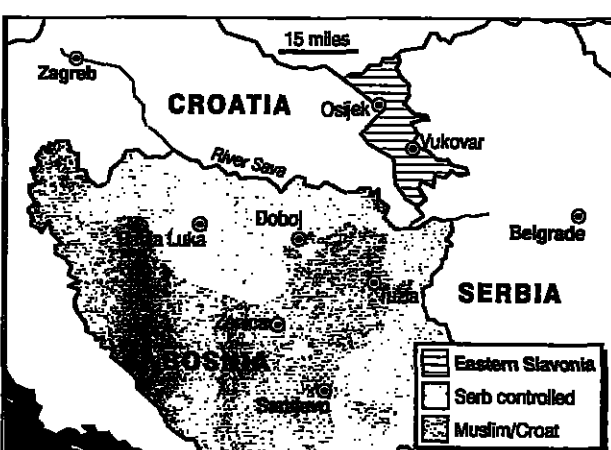
## Croats take revenge on Serbs by phone

Vukovar — A few years ago, the Serbs used threats and guns to drive Croats out of their homes, in the region surrounding Vukovar, in what was then eastern Croatia. Now, the boot is on the other foot. Hundreds of Serb families living in houses once occupied by Croats have been receiving threatening telephone calls from the former owners.

"We have been called several times in the middle of the night and told that our children will be killed," said Darko Kovacevic, a Serb who runs one of the little clusters of bars that have emerged from the debris on the main street of Vukovar. "Before the war, we Serbs and Croats did manage to get on, but now there is just too much bad blood."

It is difficult not to double-take when Miroslav Keravica, the Serb Mayor of Vukovar, outlines his vision of the town's future. Speaking just yards from scenes of the worst destruction seen in Europe since the Second World War, he declares his aim to help create a "genuinely multi-ethnic society" and a

Bad blood still runs deep in a town in no man's land, reports Adrian Bridge



town whose doors will be "open to all".

Before the war between Croatia and Serbia in 1991, Vukovar was a prosperous town with a mixed population.

But the scars of battle run deep, and for many of those involved – particularly in the

siege of Vukovar itself – the memories are still far too painful for talk of reconciliation.

"The first Croat to come back to this town will be dead. I personally will pull the trigger," said Slobodan Vindit, a Serb veteran of the 1991 conflict in which 90 per cent of

Vukovar was destroyed by besieging Serb paramilitaries and the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army, and which ended with some 80,000 Croats being forced to flee after Vukovar and the entire eastern Slavonia region fell into Serb hands.

Under the terms of an agreement hammered out alongside the Dayton peace accords last November, eastern Slavonia, the last slice of Croatian territory still held by rebel Serbs, is to be reincorporated into Croatia following a transitional period under a United Nations military authority.

The plan also envisages the return of all the Croats expelled following the 1991 fighting, ideally in conjunction with the return of the tens of thousands of Serbs who fled to eastern Slavonia from other parts of Croatia over the past five years.

Officials with the 5,000-strong UN force based in Vukovar acknowledge that it is a daunting task, but insist they want to prevent a re-run of what happened last year when Croat forces retook the Krajina

enclave, sparking a mass exodus of Serbs. "We are slowly trying to rebuild confidence... and to retain the multi-ethnic character of the region," said Jacques Klein, the American head of the UN transitional authority.

Since establishing their headquarters in Vukovar earlier this year, the UN forces point to a number of successes, most strikingly the removal of all heavy artillery from the region, the demobilisation of more than 10,000 men-in-arms and the peaceful takeover of the oil fields close to Vukovar, previously held by a Serb militia.

In addition, telephone connections with Croatia proper have been restored, as have postal services and – despite the fact that borders are not yet properly open – rail and road links. Serbs and Croats, moreover, have been jointly attending police training courses.

Mutual suspicions abound. Local Serb leaders holding positions in what they still term the "Republic of Serbian Krajina" are horrified at the prospect of the transfer of power to Zagreb

and are set to appeal for a one year extension of the UN's 12-month mandate in the region, set to expire in January.

Some Serbs recently staged a street protest in Vukovar to press demands for substantial autonomy in any future Croatian state – including the rights to retain their own flag, currency and anthem. Such talk is a red rag to Zagreb, which for its part is pressing for the earliest possible transfer of sovereignty. In theory, that could be as soon as January, one month after the staging of local elections, which are themselves a source of friction between the two main sides. In practice, the UN forces are likely to remain in place for some time to come.

"With the UN here we feel we have some kind of protection," said Nikola Pajic, a 60-year-old Serb who sells his home-grown pears in the Vukovar market place. "Maybe we could all live together again but we Serbs are very worried about the future. It all depends on how the Croats behave when they take over."

## Wind in gold medallist's sails lifts Hong Kong's hopes of unity

Hong Kong — It takes a lot to bring tears to the eyes and lumps to the throats of the hard-headed people of Hong Kong. But 25-year-old Lee Lai-shan has done it by winning the colony's first Olympic medal in 44 years of competing at the Games. Moreover this is the last time Hong Kong will appear under the British flag.

She has done more than the win the bronze, which some optimists thought she might manage. Ms Lee came home with a gold for windsurfing. This was so much beyond the expectations of

LOCAL  
HEROES

No 29: Lee Lai-shan

everyone, with the possible exception of her Dutch coach Rene Appel, that she is even now talked of as a person who can ease the bitter wrangling between Britain and China over the future of Hong Kong.

The rationale of this curious logic, as proposed by the *South China Morning Post*, was that Ms Lee has united political foes in a common cause of celebrating her triumph and that this unity of purpose might well be carried further.

Ms Lee, affectionately, and now universally, known as San San, is not averse to making a more general claim for her victory. "I didn't win this medal for myself," she said. "It is for all Hong Kong." And all of Hong Kong has wasted no time applauding her.

This is a place that loves winners and where bandwagons roll faster than anywhere else. Ms Lee hardly had time to make a tearful telephone call to her mother in Hong Kong before big companies were busy showering her with gifts.

She has secured a lifetime of free rides on ferries and the mass transit system. Cathay Pacific Airways will give her five years' worth of free travel, a newspaper group awarded her a HK\$1m (about £100,000) prize and sports goods manufacturers will give her any clothing she may

care to wear. Tycoons offered their congratulations in ostentatious advertisements placed in local newspapers. And, of course, politicians have been scrambling to get aboard the San San bandwagon.

The great thing about Lee Lai-shan is that she is a real Hong Kong woman. Coming from a modest background, growing up in a family of 10 children, struggling against the odds to make herself an international competitor, given little official backing until there was a hint of success, her strug-

gle to become a world league player is seen by many as a metaphor for Hong Kong itself.

Unlike most Hong Kong people Ms Lee comes from a rural background. She was born and raised on the island of Cheung Chau, one of the many small islands which make up the territory. The island's inhabitants are often regarded as rather quaint by the colony's urban population. Ms Lee's victory has the added advantage of raising their status. As a child San San was far from being the most diligent member of her

family until her uncle introduced her to sailing. Ivy, one of her sisters, remembers San San as "Ms 70 per cent" because she never gave her full attention to any task – until she got the windsurfing bug.

Now expectations of San San have zoomed from lack of interest to the wildly unrealistic. Like many sports professionals, she is dedicated to her sport. The Hong Kong fame machine seems keen to turn her into a one-woman everything.

Stephen Vines  
Lee Lai-shan: Her struggle is a metaphor for Hong Kong



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# A nation that brings its style to the track



High-speed pendolini and air-conditioned carriages have swept away the enduring 1930s image of Italy's rail network. **Andrew Gumbel** on a post-war revolution

Travelling by train in Italy conjures up strong images: the awkward intimacy of six-seater compartments in the summer heat, and the murmur of human flotsam milling about in the corridors outside; the gusts of cool air puffing into the carriage beneath the lowered blinds; the half-glanced views of romantic mountain landscapes and dramatic coastlines; the tang of perfume and sweat mingled with the natural smells of lavender and pine wafting in from outside; the hesitant stabs at conversation between black-clad grandmothers, travelling salesmen, young conscripts and foreign tourists; the exchange of glossy magazines; the smiling offers of extra sandwiches from scrupulously packed picnic hampers; the periodic interruptions of raffishly uniformed guards asking for tickets or announcing the next station.

Such are the images that have inspired countless travelogues, novels and films, from the high-minded philosophising of modern Italian literature to the pop sex fantasies of Erica Jong. The central place that

railways enjoy in popular Italian mythology is not hard to explain: in a peninsula so varied in both culture and geography, the vast, spiderweb network connecting big cities, provincial backwaters and remote mountain villages has quite literally been responsible for holding the country together.

When Italy first embarked on unification in 1860, there were no more than 60 km of track in the whole of the south. In the next 50 years, the railways were to provide vital employment to the impoverished populations of Sicily and Calabria as the national network expanded its capacity eight times over. In the 20th century, Mussolini understood the importance of railways in creating a strong national identity, building a fleet of carriages that would look and feel the same in both Parma and Palermo, and dotting the country with near-identical stations built in the trademark Fascist style. (Whether he really made the trains run on time is another matter, however.)

Running down the country like a spinal cord is the main line running from Milan, through Bologna and Florence to Rome, and thence to Naples, Calabria and Sicily. It is the quintessential Italian train journey, one travelled by countless migrant workers in the post-war period as they first headed north in search of work, then returned for the holidays to see mamma and the bloom of orange blossom under the Mediterranean sun. It is a route that has changed dramatically over the decades, reflecting much of the progress and regional diversity experienced by Italy itself.

In Elio Vittorini's famous novel *Conversation in Sicily*, set in the 1930s, the Sicilian nar-



Route uno: Milan Central Station to Rome is Italy's top commuter run for business executives. The journey today takes five hours instead of 12. Photograph: Trevor Humphries

ator jumps on a train back home after seeing an advertisement in Milan station that reads: "Visit Sicily! Fifty per cent off from December to June, just 250 lire return to Siracusa, third class." He then embarks on a tortuous odyssey, changing trains in Florence (six hours down the line) and Rome (another six hours), taking a ferry across the Straits of Messina and ending up on the snail-like single-track line down the east coast of Sicily. The seats are all wooden, and there is no sign of a dining car; instead, the assorted characters in his carriage nibble on oranges and pieces of bread and cheese.

These days the journey is cer-

tainly more comfortable, and much faster: third class went out with the Ark, there is air conditioning on most mainline trains, and the Milan-Rome leg takes just five hours by regular express instead of 12. Even if 250 lire won't get you very far, the prices are still very low, thanks to government subsidies that remain generous even in the market-driven 1990s.

What is most striking now is the sheer diversity of the trip. From Milan to Rome, the country's number one commuter route for business executives, one can now take the *pendolino*, Italy's answer to the TGV, which dispenses with the charm of the old railways in the

unblinkered interests of speed.

Yuppies sit in open-plan carriages, first class only, talking to virtually everyone they know by mobile phone, but studiously ignoring their fellow passengers. The *pendolino* even has its own special track beyond Florence, which accelerates the Tuscan countryside into a blur of fields and cypress trees and reduces the Mercedes on the adjacent motorway to crawling boxcars.

Beyond Rome, it is a different world. The trains may have been updated from the quaint old models with etchings of Italian tourist sites in each carriage, but they are unmistakably shabbier, and slower. The network does not have enough new

second-class carriages with air conditioning to go round, so on many southern lines old first-class carriages with fraying carpets and rusting window-frames have been requisitioned. The big figure 1 on the side of each carriage remains, only half-covered by a slip of paper with "2nd class" scribbled on in pen and notated with an official railway company stamp.

In its progress past the Bay of Naples down the rugged Calabrian coast, the train chugs past places with what Vittorini described as "the names of ancient dreams" - the Phlegrean Fields, Vesuvius, Paestum and Scilla - which in reality are mostly half-finished develop-

ments in cheap concrete, the result of half a century of corrupt property speculation in one of Europe's biggest economic basket cases, the Mezzogiorno.

At Villa San Giovanni, on the toe of the Italian boot, the train disengages from the tracks and climbs onto the back of a special ferry to take it across the thin strip of water separating the mainland from Messina in Sicily. It is a laborious process, taking an hour-and-a-half, and a bitter reminder to regular travellers of the bureaucratic hesitations that have prevented the building of a much-promised bridge across the Strait.

In Sicily, the pace slows to a crawl. Endless development

funds have built motorways and airports for this shimmeringly beautiful but troubled island, leaving nothing to update a paltry railway network that has remained virtually unchanged since the war. The 230 kilometres from Messina to Palermo take three-and-a-half hours, the 180 from Messina to Siracusa only half an hour less.

There is rarely a dining car, just a trolley-man offering his wares: "Birra, panini, acqua!" Not entirely unlike the 1930s, the passengers munch on bread and oranges and curse their fate as Sicilians, "always hoping", as Vittorini wrote, "for something better, but always despairing that they can ever have it".

**THE INDEPENDENT**

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**The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, acted to defuse the explosive situation created in West Bank cities by the death of one Palestinian prisoner tortured by Palestinian police and the fatal shooting of a second man by Palestinian security forces quelling a riot.**

**A Jericho court sentenced two officers and a sergeant, who beat Mahmoud Jammal to death in a Nablus lock-up, to 15 and 10 years' hard labour. Mr Jammal, who had been held for seven months without charge, died from cardiac arrest brought on by a fractured skull. Mr Arafat yesterday ordered the release of 15 Hamas prisoners in Tulkarm, where security men fired on a mob on Friday, killing Ibrahim Hadzayeh, a Hamas activist. Islamic militants responded by calling for a new intifada against the Palestinian Authority and the Israelis. *Eric Silver - Jerusalem***

**Sri Lankan troops renewed a thrust against Tamil Tiger rebels in the north. Air force bombers and helicopter gunships pounded rebel positions as troops resumed their advance at dawn from northern Paranthan towards rebel-held Kilinochchi, 180 miles north of Colombo, after a week-long lull. The Tigers accused the troops of indiscriminate shelling of Kilinochchi, saying nearly 200,000 civilians had fled the town. *Rosier - Colombo***

**The bodies of a pilot and a flight engineer from TWA Flight 800 were recovered from the sea-bed off Long Island. The bodies were found by divers, apparently in the area where the jet's cockpit was spotted on Friday. Investigations are continuing into the cause of the crash in which 230 people died. *AP - New York***

**A 30-year-old Spaniard died after being gored at a bull fiesta in the eastern Spanish town of El Puig. Witnesses said José Almela had been taking part in a local fiesta in which a bull is let loose with villagers in an arena made by blocking off the streets. *Rosier - El Puig***

**Two National Guardsmen were shot early yesterday as they left a restaurant in Atlanta. One was killed and the other was wounded. The guardsmen had been posted to Georgia to help with Olympic security. *AP - Atlanta***

**The Mafia plotted to blow up the Leaning Tower of Pisa in 1993, Florence's chief prosecutor told a seminar on Mafia crimes. He said explosives unearthed earlier this year at Fornello, just outside Rome, had been intended for use in an attack on Pisa's 12th-century marble bell tower. *Rosier - Rome***

**Libyan security forces have arrested scores of traders, shop owners and a senior government official in a nationwide anti-corruption sweep. Libyans arriving in Egypt said they said Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi last week set up "purification and security" police squads to jail and seize the goods of people suspected of boosting their income illegally. The head of the drug enforcement wing in Benghazi, Colonel Nouri Isba'a, was among those arrested. Communication between the provinces was cut to ensure the sweep's success. *Rosier - Mersa Matruh***

**A statue of the Pharaoh Ramses II, one of Egypt's most glorified ancient rulers, has been unearthed by excavators. Archaeologists say the 3-ton granite statue could help fill gaps in the history of the Giza plateau. *Rosier - Giza***

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# Aideed's son assumes mantle of power in Somalia

DAVID ORR  
Mogadishu

Aideed is dead, long live Aideed. That was the message from Somalia yesterday, just two days after the funeral of Somalia's most notorious warlord, General Mohamed Farah Aideed. It was announced yesterday that Hussein Aideed — the son — had been elected President of Somalia by a council of clan leaders. His father, who died from wounds received in fighting nearly two weeks ago, declared himself president of the war-torn country last year. Control of the country has been bitterly contested by the forces of General Aideed and those of Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who declared himself president

five years ago. With the overthrow of the late Siad Barre in 1991, Somalia was plunged into a vicious civil war which still continues. The conflict has claimed the lives of more than 300,000 Somalis and reduced the capital, Mogadishu, to rubble.

Hussein Aideed had been acting as his father's chief of security and as chief arms-buyer for the faction which controls southern Mogadishu and parts of the interior. Aged 31, he holds Somalia and US citizenship. In 1993 he was part of the United States intervention force which came to Somalia under a UN mandate to restore peace and protect humanitarian aid convoys. A US Marine reservist, he served as an interpreter. American troops were pulled

out of Somalia in 1994 after suffering humiliating losses at the hands of General Aideed's fighters. The US launched a series of heavy air strikes on the capital during 1993 in an attempt to eliminate General Aideed, but the warlord escaped unhurt. In the fighting which raged around the city, 36 American soldiers and an estimated 100 UN peacekeepers, mostly Pakistanis, were killed.

UN peacekeepers withdrew from Somalia early last year. A number of UN agencies, however, remained in the country, particularly in the central town of Baidoa which had evaded the worst of the war. Hussein Aideed looted UN property in the town after it was seized by his father in September.

Mogadishu has been calm in the wake of General Aideed's death and burial on Friday. However, his clansmen and supporters have vowed to continue his struggle for overall control of the country. "He was a hero," said one of his faction's fighters yesterday. "His death was a tragedy. But we will continue to follow where he led. Nothing will change."

There are some here, particularly in the northern part of the city held by Ali Mahdi, who believe Aideed's death might turn the course of the war. Yesterday, Dr Mohamed Ahmed, a lawyer who lost two children in the conflict, said, "Without Aideed it will be easier to have peace. The international community tried to

facilitate reconciliation but he prevented it. He was a man who only understood fighting."

Looking out through the door of Dr Ahmed's recently-opened practice near the Green Line, you can see a cameo of Somalia's suffering: artillery-blasted buildings, a one-legged young man on crutches, youths in camouflage jackets cradling automatic rifles in their arms.

"I hated Aideed's politics," says Dr. Ahmed. "But when a man dies in the Muslim world, we do not condemn him. It was his politics we hated, not the man. Now I hope there will be a more reasonable leadership."

There is little reason, however, to believe that the Aideed administration will in any way alter its claim to power, now the

leader is dead. Hussein Aideed is seen as being a hardliner in the same mould as his father. "If Ali Mahdi or anyone else wants to talk to us that is all right," said Mohamed Kanyari Afrah, the Aideed administration's interior minister. "But we will never, never give up our position. We are the legitimate government of Somalia and we will never accept that someone calls us a faction."

The Aideed administration accuses Ali Mahdi of pandering to foreign interference in the country's sovereign affairs. Ali Mahdi welcomed the UN's peacekeeping mission; he now wants to establish a national reconciliation council to pave the way for elections.

Ali Mahdi wants to put Somalia under UN trusteeship," said Mr Kanyari. "But we cannot accept the leadership of foreigners. That would be to reduce us to being less than human beings. Our independence is very dear to us."

It was quiet in Mogadishu last night apart from the thrumming of electricity generators and the blare of radios as the people of Somalia listened to the unfolding news of General Aideed's successor.

But many fear that, having mourned the loss of its leader, the Aideed faction will seek revenge for his death, with Hussein Aideed at the forefront of the butchery. And then the pointless cycle of killing will start again, as it has done with murderous frequency over the years.



General Aideed: his son now takes over the reins

## Chechen gunmen kidnap aid workers

Moscow — A 23-year-old Briton has been kidnapped by gunmen in Chechnya, along with a Frenchman with whom he was working on an aid mission to the war-torn Caucasian region.

Russian officials said a special task force had been set up to look for the two men, Michael Penrose and 35-year-old Frédéric Malardeau. So far, nobody has claimed responsibility for their kidnapping.

"We received a phone call from someone who said he saw the armed men bundle the two foreigners into a car in Grozny," said Igor Pogosov, spokesman for the Moscow-approved Chechen Interior Ministry.

Interfax News Agency said a man identifying himself as Bolat Adayev had telephoned journalists in Chechnya from the southern Russian city of Krasnodar and claimed the kidnappers wanted half a million dollars for the men. But their employer, the Paris-based aid organisation International Action Against Hunger, said it had yet to receive a ransom demand.

"The people who kidnapped them also took radio equipment and mobile telephones, so they can call us any time," said a spokesman, Jose Bitgin. But he made clear they had little chance of extorting money from the aid agency.

The two men had been delivering food parcels to vulnerable people in Chechnya, including pregnant women and the elderly.

Mr Penrose and his colleague are not the first aid workers to be kidnapped in Chechnya. Earlier this year, two representatives of the French organisation Médecins Sans Frontières were seized but their captors released them unharmed after two weeks.

The American aid worker Fred Curry, who went missing in April 1995, was not so lucky. His brother said after his death that it appeared he and his three

Briton and Frenchman disappear on food mission, writes Helen Womack

Russian companions had been executed on suspicion of spying. Much will depend on the group that has carried out the latest kidnapping. Chechen separatist leaders denied responsibility but they are split and have little control over their wider elements.

Despite his election promises, President Boris Yeltsin has failed to bring peace and order to Chechnya. No sooner had he been returned to the Kremlin for a second term on 3 July than fresh fighting broke out.

Russian negotiators are in the area, trying to revive the peace process. But the Russian Army continues to attack villages while the rebels are also active again. Last month, the hard-line guerrilla Salman Raduyev, believed dead, resurfaced after plastic surgery. There are even rumours that former Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, declared dead and buried in April, is actually alive and will soon return to Chechnya.

Reuters — Chechen separatists accused Russian forces of killing dozens of people in overnight attacks on a string of villages, the Interfax News Agency said yesterday. It quoted Movladi Udugov, press spokesman for the rebels, as saying the main attacks were on the villages of Borzoi and Guchin-Kala in the south of the region. The Russians are said to have bombed Ium Kalinski, Noshav-Yurt and Shatoi regions at about 11.30 p.m. (19.30 GMT) on Saturday, and five villages were reportedly attacked with artillery.



Dawn raider: A Chechen woman carries a rare bag of produce to Grozny central market. Food shortages and crime are a daily struggle in the war-torn region. Photograph: AP

## 'ANC traded charges for party donations'

MARY BRAID  
Johannesburg

A sacked government minister has caused a furious reaction with his allegations that senior ANC members, including President Mandela, accepted favours and political donations from a casino magnate, in return for bribery charges against him being dropped.

The claims, by Bantu Holomisa, the country's former Tourism Minister, who was sacked last week, have led ministers to take the unprecedented

step of instigating legal action against a former political colleague.

Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, and Steve Tshwete, the sports minister, have served lawyers' letters on the former minister, warning him to stop repeating "spurious, untrue, and defamatory remarks".

Mr Holomisa claims that Sol Kerzner paid for Mr Mbeki's 50th birthday party in 1992 and that Mr Tshwete accepted Mr Kerzner's offer of free accommodation at Sun City, South Africa's Las Vegas, last year.

On Friday, Mr Holomisa, who is a popular figure within the ANC, claimed that President Mandela himself had called him to Johannesburg's Carlton Hotel in 1994 to brief him about a 2 million rand donation to the party coffers from Mr Kerzner and to discuss the possibility of dropping bribery charges made against Mr Kerzner in Transkei.

The escalating row now threatens the unity of the ANC itself.

Meanwhile, the National Party is demanding an immediate

investigation. It is linking Mr Holomisa's dismissal with the bid to oust Patrick Lekota, prominent ANC figure and Free State premier, as part of a conspiracy to stop the two men exposing corruption in the ANC and government.

ANC officials have denied Mr Kerzner paid for Mr Tshwete's hotel bill or Mr Mbeki's birthday party. But they refused to comment on the alleged multi-million rand donation.

Last week, an ANC spokeswoman said that donations

were the party's private business and the privacy of donors had also to be respected.

"They say I am lying," said Mr Holomisa. "But so far no one has denied the meeting with the President."

Mr Kerzner was reported by *Business Sunday* last weekend to have offered the Conservative party a £5m donation for British citizenship. Mr Kerzner, speaking from his holiday home in the South of France, this weekend denied funding Mr Mbeki's party or making a two million rand donation to the ANC and

promised legal action against Mr Holomisa. But he did not deny making any ANC contribution.

"What I contribute is my business," he said. "And I have never contributed to any cause in return for favours."

Yesterday, Mr Holomisa remained defiant, inviting ANC officials to see him in court. "I will stand by [what I have said] in any court."

He is also threatening to take the ANC to the Supreme Court to state its reasons for sacking him.

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## Another day, another 16 lives snuffed out

MARY BRAID  
Tembisa

By the time we reached Tembisa township, flames were licking round the entrance of the station. A few hours before, 16 people had died in a stampede sparked by a clampdown on ticket-dodgers in which security guards used electric cattle prods on commuters.

Down the hill, hundreds of black youths stood in groups, eager to finish off the station they had already petrol-bombed. Smaller groups of men, teenage boys and a few women milled around the journalists and police. Cradling their rifles, the policemen — predominantly white — watched the crowd swelling below.

I'm a rookie foreign correspondent, new in the region. My experience of this kind of confrontation comes from television. Presented with the real thing for the first time felt like walking on to a film set. Everything and everybody is just where you would expect them to be — except for yourself.

The attack on our car came from nowhere. There was a ripple in the crowd, the buzz of voices rose to a crescendo and within seconds ripple became

riot. The *Daily Telegraph* man was at the wheel when the stone-throwing started. I crouched behind the car as youth after youth ran forward to launch his missile. The stones rained down, hitting the car with dull thuds. I felt no panic, just the same sensation of being out of time and place.

I do remember thinking I never bought the oranges or drank the wine, not once in all those boycott years. But this was hardly the time for ripping off your jumper to reveal your anti-apartheid T-shirt. We were taking a pounding, the wheels were stuck. The man from the *Times* crouched beside me got back into the car.

To the left, police were advancing down the hill, rattling off rubber bullets. The oddest thing was that everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves: it was a return to the old days and to a game which could be deadly but whose rules we all understood. The stone-throwing continued from the front; the township — complete with gleeful, cheering audience — was on the right. I was embarrassed to find myself suddenly running, dodging stones, away from the police and into Tembisa. Behind me was the sound of shattering

glass as a stone hit the driver's window, narrowly missing the occupants.

So I found myself behind the lines, alongside the stone-throwers and chorus. Two men ushered me into a shop and someone brought a seal. The woman behind the counter fussed over me. Between pats to my hands and shoulders customers ran back and forward to the door to continue cheering. My colleagues had by now driven off and the rioters turned on an empty red Volkswagen belonging to a local journalist.

He had never been to Tembisa before and it is unlikely he will rush back. Not one piece of glass remained in his car when they had finished.

As men danced on his roof, the police again opened fire. And so it went on: attack, scatter and run; consolidate, attack, scatter and run.

Near by, three little boys in smart school uniforms, not one over eight, stood watching and learning. It was just another lesson in the violence endemic in South Africa. It is such a background noise that only the grossest stories make the papers. It was the cattle prods that made the Tembisa story exceptional, not the loss of 16 lives.



# The West must halt Croatia's ambitions now

Bosnia is being bungled again. The Bosnian Croats in one half of the city of Mostar are still refusing to work with the Bosnian Muslims who live in the other half. The European Union, which has the unenviable responsibility of administering the city, organised elections to a unified municipal council at the end of June. But when the Mostar Croats decided to boycott the council (after the Muslims won) the EU threatened this weekend to pull out of the city altogether.

The future does not look bright. If we can't stop Mostar being partitioned between the different nationalities, we stand very little chance of holding the Bosnian state together. The municipal election in Mostar is the forerunner of the all-Bosnian general election, due in September. Elections to multi-ethnic institutions were supposed to provide the framework for holding the Bosnian state together. But if the Mostar elections are in effect sabotaged, the prospects for a reconciliatory general election look slim. And on a united Bosnia, the entire Dayton peace accord depends.

It is worth remembering what's at stake. The Dayton peace accord brought to an end five years of war - a war driven by the pursuit of ethnic cleansing and national partition, and characterised by horrific atrocities on all sides. At the heart of the agreement was the rejection of a divided Bosnia - something that the Serbs and Croats

(in and outside Bosnia) had been pursuing all along.

If Bosnia were chopped up into three separate national entities, it would not be long before the Bosnian Serbs joined a new Greater Serbia, and the Bosnian Croats joined a new Greater Croatia. The nationalists' call to arms at the beginning of the war would have been rewarded. Moreover, we would have failed to place a boundary on their expansionist ambitions: the tiny remaining Muslim Bosnian state would be in an appalling, vulnerable position.

Hence the importance of pursuing a single Bosnian state of all three nationalities - the deal on which Dayton was signed. This is also why the self-proclaimed Bosnian Croat state within a state, Herzeg-Bosnia, should not be allowed to prevail, and why the unification of Mostar (the Croats' favoured capital of Herzeg-Bosnia) is so important.

A viable Muslim-Croat city at the heart of Bosnia need not be beyond the wit of international organisation. The Muslims are game - in fact they are determined, having most to lose if Bosnia collapses. Meanwhile, the Croats are not grass-roots politicians representing the irrepressible demands of their local population. According to the EU officials in charge of Mostar, they are rather more gangsters and nationalist paramilitaries, heavily reliant on Croatia for support, and vulnerable to Croatian discipline.



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The links between the Croatian government and the Herzeg-Bosnia politicians should not be underestimated. Croatian President Tudjman has, on occasion, made no secret of his long-term expansionist vision. Whether overtly, or covertly, he has been encouraging the Bosnian Croats to resist the dissolution of Herzeg-Bosnia for some time. Gojko Susak, the Croatian defence minister, is a Bosnian Croat rather than a Croatian national. Having left Bosnia for Canada, he made his money in pizza parlours and then returned to bankroll the Croatian president, and buy himself power.

Back in Bosnia, the Croat separatists fly the Croatian state flag, use the Croatian currency, and have formed themselves into the Croatian Democratic Union - the same name as Tudjman's party in Croatia itself. Tudjman has more power and influence over the Bosnian Croats than anyone else, so it is in Croatia rather than Bosnia that the Mostar problem has any chance of being solved.

What then should we do, to tackle Tudjman and to unite Mostar? Sadly, where "we" refers to the EU, the question is almost irrelevant. When the US intervened to get the Dayton peace

process going, it was the final decisive blow to the crumbling credibility of the EU in the Balkans. Now no one takes anything the EU says seriously at all.

The US took a step in the right direction on Friday, by applying direct pressure to Tudjman. The Croatian President was summoned to Washington to meet President Clinton, and supposedly agreed to tell the Bosnian Croats to dissolve Herzeg-Bosnia and accept the Mostar elections. Several days, countless Croatian government envoys, and hours of Mostar negotiations later, the Croats still refuse to back down.

Faced with such resistance, the West must continue with the pressure on Tudjman, and make good the US threat to turn Croatia into an international pariah unless it completely abandons its expansionist ambitions. Croatia should be excluded from international arenas. No new trade agreements should be negotiated. We should continue to withhold membership from the Council of Europe. And we should be prepared to exclude Croatia from sporting events too.

Enforcing a united Bosnia while so many tensions remain will not be easy. Nato will need to remain heavily involved in the region long after the current end-of-year deadline has passed. But the EU should accept that it too will need to stay in Bosnia - monitoring, facilitating, and keeping a political peace.

We allowed Croatia to build its mil-

itary strength and its territorial ambitions during the war. It was Croatian armed power that tipped the balance against Serbia and made peace possible. But now that peace is here - for the time being - the Serb-Croat-Muslim equation looks rather different. If anything, Croatia appears to have emerged with the winning hand. For the sake of international justice and future peace in the Balkans, we have a responsibility to put the brakes on Croatian trouble-making now.

## The virtual manager is here

SI Alhans accountants are heating a revolutionary path. Not for them the endless rounds of introductions, forgotten names, and sweaty handshakes whenever new staff arrive. Instead, computers will provide virtual tours of the office layout, and its inhabitants.

The accountants think it will save them time and money - but, oh dear, why do they have to live up so obviously to their impersonal stereotype? Don't they know that a little human contact goes a very long way?

Still, they might have a germ of an idea. Like, virtual goodbyes. Managers could avoid all the pain of firing people by getting a virtual version of themselves to do it instead. Or is that such a good idea ...?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Shooting is not a pastime for deviants

Sir: If Bryan Appleyard thinks that this time the "mob" is right, on the subject of gun control, then I do hope that the right questions were asked ("This time the mob has right on its side", 1 August). The proposed non-discriminatory handgun ban would sweep away a great many historical arms and antiques in a manner reminiscent of the Reformation. Next time you are in a museum, disposed to admire the craft of some 16th century gun maker, be grateful there was no purge carried out in the 18th century.

I would also hope that the appetite of Bryan Appleyard's "mob" would extend to other, quite definite, life-saving measures, like reducing urban vehicle speed limits to 20 mph. There is no longer any doubt that this would save the lives of dozens of children each year. But how many drivers would support such an inconvenient though life-saving measure, and not even a crusading journalist would dare call those who opposed such a move "irredeemable loonies".  
D EADSFORTH  
Winchester

Sir: A witch-hunt is easy to start, less easy to control (Bryan Appleyard, 1 August). Those who pursue shooting in all its many variants as a pastime are all members of the public, many with wives, or husbands, and children, not some curious deviants.

I have enjoyed target shooting since joining my school rifle club, more years ago than I care to remember, and now particularly enjoy shooting replica 18th and 19th century firearms, including pistols. I also enjoy driving my vintage Austin. Both hobbies involve an appreciation of design, engineering and performance, and skill in handling and maintaining. For which do I wear my "loony" hat?

Are all of us who extend our skills and knowledge via hobbies "loonies"?  
P GILBERT  
Farnborough,  
Hampshire

Sir: Amos Miller (Letters, 3 August) implies that guns have no utilitarian use. He forgets their prime purpose is defence of this country. Like archery, however, shooting provides a test of skill and has subsequently become a sport. His curt dismissal of the interests of a law-abiding minority ("they can find a new hobby") should worry everyone who thought Britain was a tolerant and fair-minded nation.  
RICHARD BALMER  
Stirling

Sir: Inner city schools are for the most part islands of good order, good learning and good relationships. At least that is generally so in Birmingham. But the streets around us are home to a culture of drugs, knives and guns. This does not only apply to the inner city. Head teachers report a sharp increase in threatening incidents, especially involving unwelcome disturbed visitors, during the past two terms.

The gun lobby must not prevail. Our society can no longer afford the dubious luxury of handguns. They must be banned.  
JOHN RAY  
Chairman of Governors  
Golden Hill Secondary School  
Birmingham



Sir: Surely it is the ultimate hypocrisy of our society that it can clamour for a ban on the private ownership of firearms yet at the same time condone the routine diet of gun-related violence presented nightly on our TV and cinema screens in the name of "entertainment".

This public appetite for violent screen gunplay contrasts starkly with the legitimate and responsible sporting use of those who own and use firearms legally.  
MAURICE KANARECK  
London, NW11

Sir: Driving through the US state of Montana some years ago I gave a lift to a talkative local teenager who told me he collected handguns as a hobby, just as his father did. Remonstrating in the usual British way, that handguns are for killing people, I was assured that I was wrong - handguns are for killing rattlesnakes. How are rattlesnakes these days in Dunblane, or for that matter in Westminster?  
OLIVER WRONG  
London W1

Sir: Of course it is not safe to allow people to keep guns at home. As a GP I once refused to leave a surgery for an inappropriate emergency visit. When I did visit an hour later I found the man polishing one of his (legally owned) guns, which just happened to point in my direction. I felt thoroughly intimidated, as I am sure was intended.

I reported this to the police who told me that they had no power to review his firearms licence in these circumstances.  
Dr PETER WALTERS  
Basingstoke,  
Hampshire

### Time to regain Olympic ideals

Sir: I couldn't agree more with Nick Walker ("Let the disabled join the 'freak show'", 30 July). Why, in an age when we are trying so hard to let everyone have the rights they deserve, do we have a separate Olympic Games for disabled athletes and treat people like second-class citizens because they are not good enough for the "real thing"?

The opening ceremony of each Olympic Games is now a massive experiment in manipulation to make us to feel what a wonderful experience we are enjoying with the whole world competing together on "a level playing field". When the whole world includes people who on a daily basis deal with disabilities that would defeat most of the people that are competing at Atlanta why should they be excluded?

The Olympics should be an event where "amateur" sportspeople can enter secure in the knowledge that they are competing in a world arena with the best of their class. I find it difficult to understand how professional teams are acceptable when some of the best "amateur" sportspeople are excluded because they are disabled.

The Olympics are no longer "a level playing field" and we should be trying to regain that ideal and include those who are at the top of their field regardless of their physical abilities or disabilities.  
HELEN NOBLE  
Bristol

Sir: Last week, Paul Palmer, one of our Olympic sporting successes, subscribed to the theory that success in sport in Britain is on the whole in spite of the system and not because of it. On the same day John Major announced the introduction of sports scholarships in an attempt to improve our world standing ("The way to turn silver into gold", 25 July).

The question that springs to mind is "what level of sporting success do we want to achieve?" Although I am sure we would like to move away from our reputation for heroic failure, would we want to become like the Americans at these Games in that if their competitors don't win gold, they are considered underachievers? To the viewing public I don't think there is any greater feeling than occasional success. When it occurs, it carries that surprise element that can lead to national euphoria.

Compare this with the expectation that comes with extra funding and support.

Of course we need to give our athletes more financial backing, but not to the extent that it creates an undue burden of expectation. Paul Palmer is only 21 years old. He has just won a silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in the Olympics. In Sydney in four years' time I hope he wins gold.

But I also hope the country does not expect him to.  
RICHARD DARNELL  
Harpenden,  
Hertfordshire

### Concern for Burundi

Sir: Since 1993, up to 150,000 people have been killed in Burundi in what has been referred to as "slow motion genocide". Now the situation in the central African state has sunk deeper into crisis.

The UN is appealing to member states to contribute to the setting up of a regional force, but experiences in Somalia and even recently in Rwanda have shown that military intervention presents neither a clear nor easy solution. Military intervention is needed and must be supported, but on its own it is not enough - it has to be combined with continued and renewed international pressure on all sides to bring parties to the negotiating table. The international community must continue to demonstrate the strongest support for the mediation efforts entrusted to the former Tanzanian president, Julius Nyerere. We must renew efforts to achieve a settlement not only in Burundi, but also in the surrounding region.

Continued funding, pressure on political parties on both sides, military intervention to stop the killings, initiatives from high-level officials, continued dialogue, continued pressure and above all continued interest are all necessary. If we allow ourselves to think there is nothing we can do, then we have accepted that every day, many more people will be killed.  
DOMINIC MACSORELEY  
Concern Worldwide, London SW1

### Legalised brothels exploit prostitutes

Sir: The calls for legalised brothels reflect increasing public concern with prostitute women's safety and civil rights. It may also reflect the Government's drive to cut the unemployment figures.

Legalised brothels usually go hand-in-hand with police crackdowns against street workers - the most vulnerable women whose protection the police have rarely prioritised. As with other alternatives, women without premises without being subject to regulation, licensed establishments can impose conditions which are more exploitative than at present.

Where legalisation exists, it has further trapped women on the game and made it harder for women to keep their earnings, institutionalising state pimping. The prostitution stigma remains.

Most women prefer to break the law, and keep their earnings and independence - only an estimated 12 per cent of women work in Germany's legalised areas. Recently in Amsterdam sex workers threatened to go on strike over licensing proposals which discriminated against immigrant women.

Legalised brothels by themselves would protect neither safety nor civil rights. What is needed is for the exchange of sex for money between consenting individuals to be removed from the criminal law.  
NIKI ADAMS  
NINA LOPEZ-JONES  
English Collective of Prostitutes  
London NW6

### Success of Oxford business studies

Sir: Barry Welch (Letters, 31 July) makes some interesting observations on the challenges facing Oxford and Cambridge as they pursue the goal of creating first-class business schools. I cannot speak for Cambridge, but when it comes to Oxford his analysis completely misses the mark.

Oxford has been engaged in business studies for over 30 years at Templeton College, building up considerable expertise in programmes for working managers and in practice-focused research. The Oxford Advanced Management Programme has a worldwide reputation as a leading edge senior executive programme. It has an alumni group of over 3,000 executives. Among these, and the hundreds of graduates from our full-time degree programmes in management, Mr Welch would find many of his "mainstream achievers in business".

As to our research, it is the very opposite of "ultra pure and of marginal use to business". The college has five research institutes strongly funded and supported by the corporate sector, whose *raison d'être* is to produce findings and programmes of both immediate and long-term value to business.

The Oxford MBA is new, but one of the important factors distinguishing the MBA is that it is being launched from a strong base of executive experience. Oxford, ironically given its image, is moving into academic degree programmes from executive ones - the reverse path to that of nearly every other business school.

So, "first league business academics" in coming to Oxford will not be joining "an embryonic institution whose existence remains controversial" but one with an established track record, now further strengthened by fusion with a world class university.  
Dr RORY KNIGHT  
Deputy Director (Executive Education)  
Oxford School of  
Management Studies  
Templeton College, Oxford

### Names please

Sir: Isn't it odd that during the whole of the BSE epidemic the general public has never been told the names of the animal-feed manufacturers who are responsible for it? Surely they have a right to put their version of how they came to transform ruminants into carnivores - a process which most people find abhorrent. And, since I suspect they may have links with those conglomerates which provide food for humans, surely we all have a right to know who they are.  
CLIVE EXTON  
London N1

### Car counting

Sir: Hamish McRae ("What drives the P push?", 2 August) accuses "green" motoring correspondents of not understanding what everybody wants. But his argument is too simplistic.

Of course there are people who, if they have the money, will want a P registration car. Such people can easily be counted through the sales figures. The people who can't be counted are those who would much rather have a decent urban environment to replace the present one which has been steadily eroded by excessive use of private cars.  
HARLEY SHERLOCK  
London N1



# Angry men at an Ulster crossroads

Last week the UVF was forced to disband its rebellious Portadown unit. Steve Bruce questions whether the loyalist ceasefire can hold

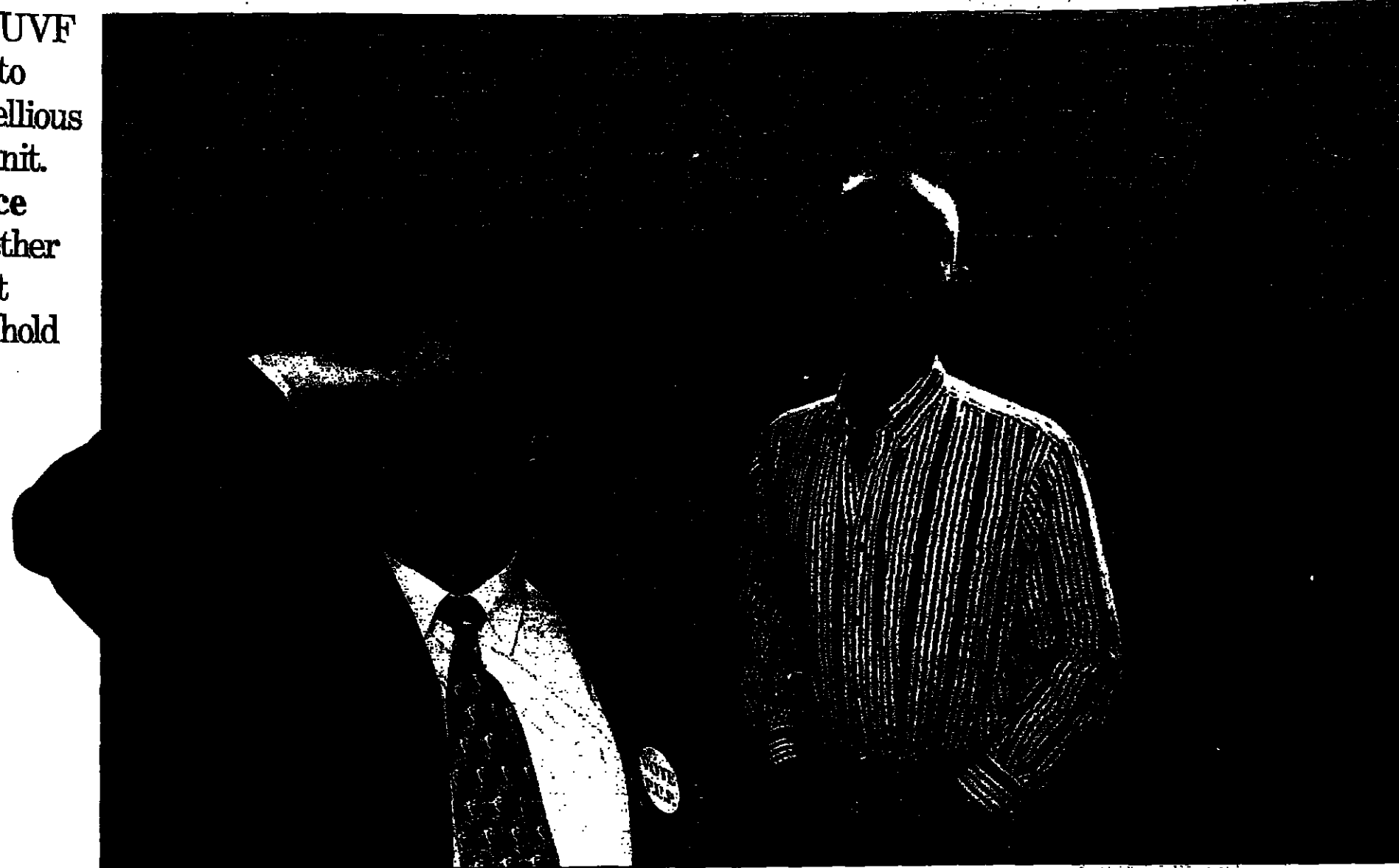
Against a background of disputed Orange marches and widespread rioting, political talks that are going nowhere and a resumed IRA bombing campaign, last week's decision by the Ulster Volunteer Force to disband its notorious Portadown unit offers a powerful insight into the chances of the loyalist ceasefire holding.

To grasp the significance of this expulsion, we must trace the history of the relationship between violence and politics, between the "military" core of the UVF (the smaller but potentially more dangerous of the two loyalist organisations) and its political expression in the Progressive Unionist Party.

The PUP, led by David Ervine, Billy Hutchinson, and a former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Hughie Smyth, was formed in the early 1980s, but it only came to national attention in 1994 when the possibility of an end to violence gave us all a reason to listen to the public spokesmen for the UVF.

The modern UVF was formed in 1966 by working-class Unionists fearful that the tentative reforms of the prime minister, Terence O'Neill, would stimulate Irish nationalism in the north and concerned that republicans would mark the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising with an insurrection in Belfast. The leading figure was Augustus "Gusty" Spence, a shipyard worker and former soldier whose family were active in the west Belfast branch of the Unionist party. Spence's small band drilled, collected weapons, fund-raised by robbery, and murdered three people, all innocent victims of unfocused aggression. In a matter of months, Spence was in prison serving a life sentence for his part in the murder of a young Catholic barman.

Serving a life sentence was an education for many loyalists, as they came to terms with the irony of their position: apprehended, charged, sentenced and guarded by the agents of the very state they wanted to defend. In the unpromising surroundings of an old army camp hastily commissioned to



Two faces of Unionism: David Ervine (left), Progressive Unionist leader, sets his sights on negotiation; Billy Wright, a leading figure in the Mid-Ulster UVF, treats politicians with disdain

hold the internees and sentenced prisoners, Gusty Spence found his mission. To maintain morale and group solidarity, he initiated a firm regime of military discipline, with drills, guard rotas, and kit inspections. Prisoners were only allowed to consult the prison doctor with the permission of the "Officer Commanding", and any prescribed drugs were held by the OC and carefully dispensed. Spence also began classes in which he taught his young charges their history.

The UVF inside the Maze exemplified the military structure and discipline so patently lacking in the organisation on the streets, where, in addition to the centrally sanctioned bombings, republican terror was matched by the ruthless cruelty of small gangs murdering randomly selected civilians and inflicting as much damage on their own people as on the nationalists who were supposedly their enemies.

On the gable walls of the Shankill Road, Spence was portrayed as a hero: square jaw, dark glasses, commando cap. In the Maze, the real Spence became increasingly critical of

Unionism. He readily asserted that the Protestant working class had been as much victims of 50 years of Unionist misrule as had northern nationalists, and he began to demand a liberal Unionism that tried to incorporate northern Catholics in its vision.

However, Spence's socialist rhetoric fell on deaf ears. The UVF outside was too deeply embedded in the day-to-day world of murder, retaliation, and racketeering to care much what Spence thought. The then Chief of Staff memorably tore up one of Spence's letters from prison. Another senior figure mocked his military bearing by calling him a "cunt in a cravat".

Disillusioned by the sectarian violence, Spence resigned from leadership of the UVF prisoners. But his influence continued. Billy Hutchinson, now a leading figure in the PUP, succeeded Spence as Officer Commanding the UVF prisoners. Outside, a coup replaced Brigade Staff with men who had been close to Spence in the early days. As the overall levels of violence declined, the incidence of random sectarian mur-

ders went down and the interest in providing a distinctive political direction went up. On his release from prison in 1985, Spence talked and wrote and, in stressing that violence without political direction is worse than pointless, promoted the cause of the PUP to the UVF.

The first tangible benefit of the UVF's thinking came in



Gusty Spence, a UVF leader, apologised for violence

1991, with a loyalist ceasefire called to give the party politicians a chance to make progress in the round of talks initiated by Peter Brooke, the then Northern Ireland Secretary. But the increasing politicisation of the UVF was muted by pressure from the Unionist frustration that had been building since the Anglo-Irish accord was signed in 1985. While constitutional politicians led marches, boycotted ministers, held by-elections, disrupted local council business, and completely failed to move the Government—and the IRA pursued a highly effective and apparently unstoppable campaign of blowing the guts out of Ulster towns—loyalist terrorists responded in traditional style. In 1985, loyalists killed only two people. The next year

it was 16, then 17, building in 1993 to 47 victims. Most of this was the work of another paramilitary group, the Ulster Defence Association, but a lot of it was the UVF, and in particular the Mid-Ulster UVF.

The IRA ceasefire of 31 August 1994 caused many Unionists to fear that it had been bought by a covert British promise of a united Ireland, but it also created the conditions that allowed the politicians within the UVF to take the initiative. On 13 October, Gusty Spence read out a statement from the Combined Loyalist Military Command, apologising for the violence perpetrated by loyalists and announcing a ceasefire that was conditional on only two things: the continued cessation of republican violence and the understanding that the Union itself was not in danger.

The UVF had come full circle. Spence had started it and Spence had, many hoped, finished it.

Since the IRA's resumption of bombing in February of this year, the loyalist ceasefire has been under increased pressure, and one symptom of that is the sabre-rattling from the Mid-Ulster branch of the UVF. Last week, after further easing its way out of the organisation by announcing that it was no longer following the political direction of the Progressive Unionist Party, it was formally disbanded by the central leadership. In the most serious charge that can be made in Loyalist world, it had denounced the PUP for aligning itself with "the pan-nationalist agenda" and accused David Ervine of being a traitor to the Protestant people.

The Mid-Ulster UVF has always operated at a remove from the Belfast Brigade Staff.

It has also been one of the most active units. The 1974 car bombs in Dublin and Monaghan Town, which killed 33 people, were its work.

The present leading figure, Billy Wright, comes from a very different background to the Belfast leaders (almost all of whom grew up on the Shankill Road). His family are rural Protestants and he was raised in an evangelical culture that sees republicanism as the armed wing of Roman Catholicism, doing the Pope's work by destroying the last stronghold of the gospel in Europe. Involved in the early 1970s, Wright dropped out of the UVF. He spent time as a lay preacher of the gospel and then rejoined the UVF, because the Anglo-Irish accord of 1985 had convinced him that the only

ethnic language of "the Protestant people". Although Paisley wants the return of the death penalty for loyalists as well as republican murderers, Wright clearly believes that Paisley's pessimism is more justified than the Progressive Unionists' desire to negotiate.

The Drumcree demonstrations showed the fault lines. The Belfast UVF men do not much care about Orange Order parades. Once the battle was joined, they supported the rights of Orangemen against what they saw as politically directed RUC action, but they would rather it had not been an issue. Wright, however, was in the thick of this year's disturbances and the minor version last year. His influence there explains why David Trimble, the

**When Unionists become fearful for their position, the murder rate goes up**

leader of the largest constitutional party, could refuse to meet the ex-IRA man who represents the Garvaghy Road residents but felt obliged to talk to Wright and his supporters.

The record of the Mid-Ulster UVF shows that its threats need to be taken seriously: it has killed a lot of people and can do so again. However, though it is calous to treat any murder as insignificant, the occasional assassination has only slight potential for destabilising the province. The large danger lies in the main UVF, which is reportedly now very well equipped with commercial explosives. In the 18 months before the ceasefire, the UVF set off a number of bombs, with varying but increasing efficiency. Within the councils of the

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UVF Mid-Ulster has had little influence. Many of his comrades view Wright as a self-aggrandising publicity-seeker. The danger is not that Mid-Ulster will persuade the rest of the UVF to break its ceasefire, or even that Mid-Ulster murders will stimulate the IRA to become more active and thus increase pressure for the loyalists to retaliate. The real danger lies in the political uncertainty that, in a form more extreme than in the rest of the organisation, is being reflected in Mid-Ulster.

Though their tactics are different, loyalist paramilitaries are motivated by the same considerations as other Unionists. If one plots loyalist killing rates over the past 30 years, a simple pattern emerges. When either republican violence or British government initiatives (or worse, both together) suggest that the Union is in danger, Unionists become fearful for their position and the murder rate goes up.

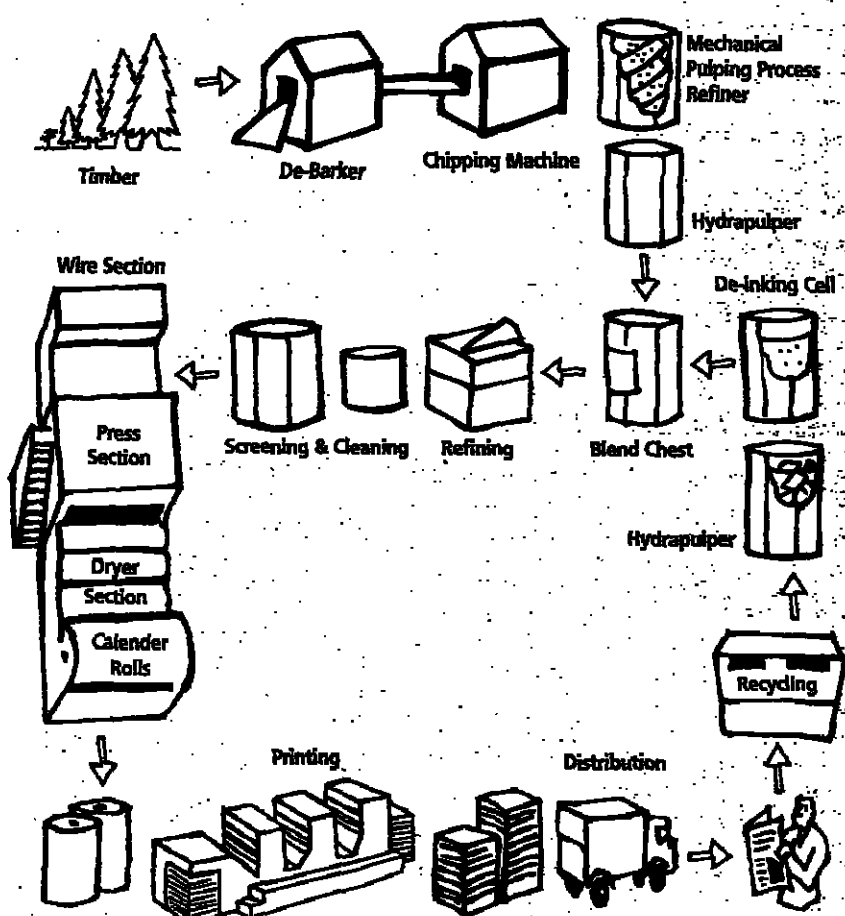
The part of the UVF most influenced by Spence is accommodating and liberal. It will accept power-sharing with within Northern Ireland. It proposes a Bill of Rights to safeguard the interests of all citizens. It will accept cross-border agencies on small matters of mutual interest with the Irish Republic. But it remains Unionist. Despite Mid-Ulster's charge of treachery, and the more vociferous criticism from Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, still means the second word in its title. Its representatives at the party talks will continue to be at odds with the Paisleyites because they will stick to the UVF script on decommissioning: no weapons will be handed over until there is a plausible final settlement.

The expulsion of the Mid-Ulster unit shows that the PUP retains the confidence of the UVF; but in the brutally honest self-assessment of one PUP activist: "No one should make the mistake of thinking that the UVF will swallow massive and bitter pills just to keep David [Ervine] and Hughie [Smyth] in the talks".

The mature Gusty Spence believes that he was wrong in 1966 to use violence to defend the Stormont regime of the Unionist party, but the organisation he created based its 1994 ceasefire on two conditions: an IRA ceasefire and the maintenance of the Union. The first has failed. If, in order to restore it, London gives too much to Dublin and northern nationalists, the second condition will fail, and with it, if we are to believe the UVF's assessment of its capability, any chance of peace.

Steve Bruce is the author of *The Red Hand: Protestant Paramilitaries in Northern Ireland*.

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## The Ballad of Edinburgh Fred

As I set off to the Edinburgh Festival today, I am reminded of a long poem which I don't think I have ever brought to you before. As you know, I am an avid collector of modern folk verse, especially motorway ballads, and this long ballad was told to me by a lone unicyclist whom I once gave a lift to en route to the Edinburgh Festival. I never saw him again, though I still have his unicycle, if he cares to contact me.

Oh, I am part of a two-man show  
And over the world the two of us go  
There's me and Fred, and Fred and me,  
And nobody else that I can see.

Comedy mime is what we're at  
We do our stuff and pass the hat,  
And we have been all over the place.  
From Burnham-on-Crouch to Cannock Chase  
From Marrakesh to Tripoli  
Making a living uncomfortably.

But the place where we will never return  
The place we'd rather willingly burn  
The place whose memory makes us cringe  
Is the place they call the Edinburgh Fringe.

Oh, we went to the Fringe in ninety-four  
— We'd neither of us been there before  
And thought that it was well-nigh time  
That we hitched north with our comedy mime.

Well, straight off we got a bit of luck  
— A lift with a brand-new pick-up truck —  
And there in the back already there were  
Five people going to Edinburgh.

Introductions all round were made  
And comedy juggling was their trade.  
"We were up at the Fringe last year,"  
Said a girl, with a very slight hint of a tear,  
"And we lost twenty thousand quid."

"More like thirty," said a boy  
called Sid.  
"But we are going up again,  
Once more to burst the barrier of pain."

"It's like a drug," their leader said,  
Haggardly cycling me and Fred.  
"When you leave the Fringe on the homeward train,  
You swear you'll never go back again."

The empty houses, the lack of reviews,  
The take-away food, the snailly shoes,  
The lack of sleep, the quiet despair —  
All of this vanishes in the air.  
And after a fortnight, come September,



Miles Kington

As they sprawled on their dusty bags and sacks,  
And Fred gave me a dusty look  
Which I could read like an open book  
And the book was called "The Road to Hell"

Subtitled, "Why Are We Going As Well?"  
Suddenly the truck stopped, at Carlisle,  
Where the driver was going to eat for a while,  
And the jugglers all got out in the street.

Though not to stretch, and not to eat,  
But to paper the town with posters that said  
"Juggling Tonight at the Comedy Shed!"  
Hit of the Fringe in Ninety-Three!

The only thing you can remember  
Is the occasional fun you had  
Not the things that were so bad.  
And so we're going again to get  
Even further into debt.  
They laughed like a group of maniacs  
As they sprawled on their dusty bags and sacks.  
And Fred gave me a dusty look  
Which I could read like an open book  
And the book was called "The Road to Hell"

Come Along and You'll Agree!  
"Just a moment, chaps," I said.  
"You might call me a danderhead,  
But why on earth put you posters here?"

"When it's in Edinburgh you appear?"  
"Because," said the girl,  
"there's no room up there.  
Every shop with a window spare,  
Every cafe, every bar,  
Every house and every car,  
Anything at all in Edinburgh  
That's large, enough, and doesn't stir."

Will be covered in flyers on every wall  
So better Carlisle, than nowhere at all.

This tragic ballad goes on for hundreds of lines, and tells how Fred and the narrator are so appalled by the tale of woe, and by the sight of broken-down vans full of theatre props still trying to get to Edinburgh, that Fred and friend turn round before they ever get to Edinburgh and head back south again.



## the commentators

## The Home Secretary who is above the law

Michael Howard knows when the courts will reprimand him. But he doesn't care – public opinion is what counts

It is deplorable, if not always surprising, that the Home Secretary is regularly in the headlines for breaking the law. Every few months we read that he has been fundamentally unfair, or he has circumvented his obligations, or he has disregarded a contract of employment, or failed to follow correct procedures, or abused his powers. How can it be that the Home Secretary himself, responsible as he is for large parts of the criminal justice system, frequently acts unlawfully? I sometimes wonder if he is a bit like President Nixon's Attorney General at the time of the Watergate scandal, John Mitchell, who likewise knew the law, held an office that was responsible for it, yet found himself on the wrong side of it.

My picture of Michael Howard is this. A question comes before him, say, regarding his powers to regulate the prison sentences of convicted murderers. Recently it was the case of the boys who killed the toddler, James Bulger. Mr Howard is not one of those ministers who arrive in office wholly ignorant of the work of his or her department – he was a practising barrister for a long period. The Home Secretary per-

fectly well understands the principles of the law. He reads in an informed way the excellent legal advice at his disposal. He listens likewise to his civil servants when they warn him of any risks he faces in embarking upon a particular course. Of one thing, therefore, we can be sure. The Home Secretary is not the least bit taken aback when the courts reprimand him. When asked for his reaction by TV reporters, we see him relaxed, smiling, not a care in the world. Mr Howard is not an Ian Botham, genuinely amazed at losing in the High Court.

Mr Howard can live with these setbacks to his plans. It is obvious that he is much more concerned by the judgement of a less formal tribunal – the court of public opinion. For the very action that earns him a judicial reprimand can bring him support in the tabloid press. The judge who ruled that the Home Secretary had unfairly bullied the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Moonies, from entering the United Kingdom was attacked by the *Daily Mail* for having attended a Communist summer school in his youth. The *Daily Express* denounced "the sickness sweeping through the senior judiciary – galloping arrogance".



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Indeed the letter from the Home Office to the boy murderers of James Bulger conveying the Secretary of State's decision to raise the minimum period they would spend in prison specifically mentioned "the public concern about this case which was evidenced by the petitions and other correspondence". Never mind that the judge's original decision took into account the need for public confidence in the system, that the petitions may have been unfairly conducted, that after the minimum sentence fixed by the judge has been served, the Home Secretary of the day could in any case forbid release and reconsider the situation later – these are academic points to Mr Howard. I believe he

does not mind that the new Master of the Rolls should describe his actions as a departure from standards of fairness required; he will have seen that coming. What counts much more is tabloid applause and the politics of law and order.

If this were the sum of it – the Home Secretary's handling of the dreadful Bulger murder, the notorious Rev Moon and one or two similarly high-profile cases – one could limit one's comments to being worldly wise. Home Secretaries are ambitious politicians near the top of the greasy pole. Politicians commonly put party advantage ahead of the national interest and confuse the two.

This explanation, however, does not fully explain Mr Howard. He goes much further. When he decided, for instance, to sack the head of the prison service, Derek Lewis, it must have been clear from the outset to which the Home Office is party what the compensation should be, or that it could be negotiated. But poor Mr Lewis is forced to go to court to compel the Home Secretary to pay up. To take another example, Mr Howard is under pressure to cut his department's expenditure. He decides to reduce

the compensation paid to the victims of crime by changing the regulations. It is inconceivable that his officials failed to point out that Parliamentary approval would be required. But presumably the Home Secretary did not fancy explaining this measure to the House of Commons so he announced it on his own authority. Would anybody notice his omission?

As it happens, the trades unions representing people who risk violence at work (fire-fighters, prison officers etc.) did so, they sought judicial review and they won the case. The Master of the Rolls said that the "Home Secretary, by implementing the tariff scheme, has acted unlawfully and abused his prerogative or common law powers." He must submit his proposals to Parliament.

Mr Howard is not just your average naughty politician, a Westminster wide boy. He is more than that. His attitude to the law is deeply cynical. He seems to say to himself, "I may be Home Secretary but I'll still see what I can get away with." I don't believe there has been a more dangerous holder of this great office of state in the past 30 years.

## Game of the name

William Hartston

All this hand-wringing and soul-searching over our poor Olympics performance is totally misguided. The true cause of our failures lies in team selection: there are simply too many Nicks and Johns in the team and not enough Davids or Michaels. For comparison, look at the following table with a breakdown of MPs' names in the principal parties:

Name	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem
David	28	8	3
John	25	24	0
Michael	24	8	0
Peter	16	7	0
Nicholas	9	2	1
Andrew	7	5	0
Timothy	9	0	0
Patrick	6	0	0
Brian/Bryan	1	5	0
Gordon	0	4	0
Dennis	0	3	0
Kevin	0	3	0

The table reflects the general prevalence of the name "John", which also shows no preference between the two main parties (though oddly most of the "Mr Hon Sir Johns" are Tory). Michael and Nicholas are clearly aligned with the Conservatives, and while David is more Con than Lab, the three Lib-Dem Davids (from a total of 20) represent a highly significant David quota in a curiously Johnless party. The distribution of the Timothys is statistically the most significant result, however. The Tories appear to have captured the Tim vote, though Labour have a stranglehold over Kevin, Dennis and Gordon. In other professions, the second table tells a different story:

Name	Cri	Soc	EEF	Luv	Oly
John	2.2	3.0	6.9	4.3	3.9
David	3.7	5.3	4.9	4.8	3.9
Michael	3.5	2.5	3.7	3.8	0.6
Peter	1.1	1.6	4.9	3.5	2.8
Andrew	3.2	2.5	0.7	1.8	2.8
Timothy	1.9	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.1
Kevin	1.3	1.8	0.4	0.7	1.1
Wayne	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0
Darren	1.9	0.9	0.2	0.1	1.7
Jason	1.9	1.6	0.0	0.2	0.6

The figures represent the percentages of each name at the top of five professions: County Cricket (Cri), Premier League Soccer (Soc), 500 wealthiest Britons (EEF), Actors (Luv) and the British Olympic team (Oly). As may be seen, the Davids continue to outperform the Johns at everything except making money. Kevin, Wayne, Darren and Jason fare better at sport than politics, though surprisingly no better at soccer than cricket. Cricketers generally retain the longer form. Andrews (who almost invariably truncate to Andy on the football pitch) are hopeless financially and underperform on the stage, where they have been overtaken by Simon, Mark and Paul. Andrews are, however, more likely than any other name to edit national broadsheet newspapers.

## Prisoners of the fourth estate

If we want a better monarchy, we'd better stop driving the royals insane, says Melvyn Bragg

We need a Society for the Protection of Royals, if only on humanitarian grounds. The media are steadily hunting them down. Like the white rhino, they're an endangered species; and if we feel they have a place on the planet, we need to take action.

Today, in photographs, they are haunted by a common expression: desperation. What are they for? Where can they hide? What have they done to deserve these relentless telescopic lenses?

This is not the least of the growing list of reasons for the speedy provision of a drastically reduced role for the monarchy. The Crown remains as a bloated reminder of days long gone. The global suck of blood and power that swelled our Headship of State to competitive Imperial proportions has run dry. While the rest of us are trying to shake down into the real new world, the monarchy grows more and more grotesque in its blundering size and its implacable legitimising of all the indulgences of privilege. But if the spiralling parodic nature of our uncontented monarchy is not guided soon to quieter shores, I can see the youngest of the royals themselves mauling the barricades for republicanism – because their life has become intolerable.

The intensity of the press scrutiny must boil their brains. No one, in my view, can undergo or be trapped in such ferocious attention without going some way mad. The fact that some of them have become addicts and feed off the publicity as much as it feeds off them only compounds their miserable condition. Bad enough to be hounded: near-lunacy to play the prey.

This family, once supported by real props of society who looked after its dignity, who built high walls around its inevitable weaknesses, who gave it a specialness that found justification in a powerful section of society's understanding of itself, is now propped. The roof has caved in.

Who looks after the Royal Family now? Whose class or cadre really defends it? Where has that great clique of civilian Household Cavalry gone in the Windsors' hour of need? Underground, or into retreat? The royals have never needed them more.

but their supporters are scattered, regrouping only in an occasional charge into the letter columns.

The Queen Mother's 96th birthday gives us a perspective. When she and her husband were on the throne, not a contrary pip or squeak reached the public ear about any blemishes, let alone stupidities or wickedness on their part, and perhaps there was nothing to reveal. Result? Universal adulation, the nation knew where it was, the Queen Mother enjoyed the job 100 per cent, and smiles all round.

Leads begin to come through the ceiling with the next generation. The cruel handling of the Princess Margaret-Townsend affair, the persistent gossip about the Duke of Edinburgh, the early worries over a young prince clearly being forced into a mould he did not like. Result? Unease as the decades dragged on, poor decisions about the media. And people wonder why the Queen doesn't smile except with corgis and horses.

## The sight of them being broken on the public wheel is sickening

In the following generation, all hell breaks loose. Future queen makes shock TV confession of suicide attempts, conspiracy fears (thought to be well-based), unsuitability of husband as new king, own affair with horse-bibbermouth. Future king meanwhile has confessed adultery, while questions are publicly asked about the quality of one brother's intellect and the bias of the other brother's sexuality, and a duchess becomes a pantomime dame. Result? Ridicule, exasperation, growing feeling that it is time to end the show.

But the nation laps up this new blood sport. The royals begin to panic. Even the steady Queen rushes out to do some fire-fighting and is thought to be spiteful (removing that HRH). General mess. Save the Wales takes on a whole other meaning.

But there is more to go. The next batch is being fattened up at school. Tagged by the press and television as surely as heavy prisoners on parole.

Lots of lovely stories in prospect, lost virginity, first booze-up, holiday snags, and by then of course the ante will be upped and who knows what we might want to do to them.

Sometimes it seems to me that it is all purely wanton. At other times it appears to be revenge. They have all that wealth and pomp and tradition – so let's get them.

Is there a terrible unconscious agenda among the new democratic gods of Great Britain – the fourth estate – that they want to destroy those who once had so much power; and so first, in proper Greek manner, they are driving them mad?

How can human beings be expected to stand all this? Anyone who has received even marginal attention from the press locally or nationally knows how unerving it can be to the self, the family and friends, and to the vague feeling that there are envious enemies "somewhere out there". For most of us, this is merely a fearful fantasy. But for the royals, there is enormous interest out there, most likely enormous envy, and given the attacks that these intrusions represent, who is to say there is not enormous unconscious enmity?

In their own way, they are as big as Hollywood stars, rock stars or soap stars, and all they have to do is themselves. But who is that? What does it mean when their given roles are yawningly divorced from any late 20th-century reality in the Western world?

You see their stricken looks and the seized rigidity of the smiles. You see the aching to "act royal" (but what is that, these days?). You see, in the sudden silly actions, the desperation of people who have no road to go down any more. The Princess of Wales will sooner or later meet a man she wants to make love to. What are the odds that it will be allowed the slightest chance to grow or prosper? The Prince of Wales similarly will want to put his new house in order – but where and how? Meanwhile, the next generation, if they have any sense, will think: why should we put up with all that?

If the UK wants a modestly positioned constitutional monarchy – which I do – then it has to treat the royals better. At the moment, we flay them around the playground in a most astonishing reversal of roles.



Once, a poor boy was taken on as the young Prince's whipping boy, to be punished for his young master's errors. It seems we do the opposite. Many in the UK do not like the fact that we no longer "rule the waves" and they take it out on the last emblems of that glorious past.

It is time that the royals were treated much more as the limited individuals that they – like the rest of us – undoubtedly are. And none of us could stand that sort of public pressure. The sight of them being broken on the public wheel is sickening. They

have fallen foul of the fairy-tale and become the objects not of desire but of what can seem a determined crusade to destroy their stability.

Who can advise them as they swirl helplessly around the great plug-hole of history, which has swallowed so many redundant rulers before them? Only themselves, I think. They must take the initiative and say: we will do the job, but only if you call off the hounds, and recast the crown to fit the times. It would be a right royal act. New Style. New Britain. New Monarchy.

## THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

The story goes that Einstein was at a dinner party in Princeton in the late 1940s when one faculty member dared to address the great man. When I get my good ideas, he said, I jot them down in a little notebook so I don't forget them. What do you do? And Einstein replied, Ah, it's so rare that I get a good idea...

Everyone laughed, but by this point it was true. He had popular esteem, but it was now years since his main contributions had been made, and the new generation of physicists disregarded him.

It had been so different before. His happiest times had been in the first years of this century, long before fame, when he was just a new university graduate in his early twenties, living with friends in Switzerland, then married to a bright female student. He was earning enough money from an easy civil service job to spend his evenings and weekends in pub visits, or long walks, or, above all, in having the time to think.

From his early work came the special theory of relativity, published when he was 26, which looks among other matters at the way a fast particle or spaceship will appear to get distorted in shape as it

speeding along. Under normal conditions, a spaceship just needs to apply more thrust energy to go faster. But if it is already at very high speeds, then a curious effect takes over: the velocity can't go much higher than it is already, yet the energy being poured in can't just go away. What happens? The energy poured in ends up augmenting the solid mass of the spaceship itself.

This should sound suspiciously familiar. The mass growth is pretty small at first, just a tiny fraction of the energy poured in – what you get by dividing the energy by  $c$ , where  $c$  is the square of the speed of light. Swivel that equation around and you get the more familiar form, that energy equals mass times  $c$ , or  $E = mc^2$ .

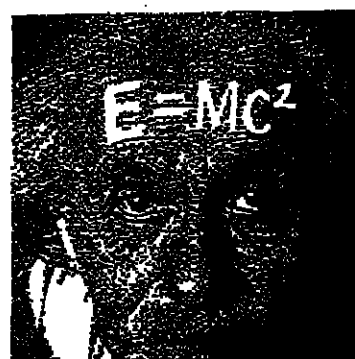
Physicists liked this, for it explained how a radioactive clump, losing only tiny amounts of mass, could spatter out dense sprays of energy for years. But there was no wider attention until, in a series of papers beginning in 1915, Einstein went much deeper.

His attention now was on the very fabric of space, and how it is affected by the size or energy of objects at any one location in it. The conclusion he came up with was as simple as possible: the more matter or



WEEK 1 DAY 1  
**Einstein**  
VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis

A final examination will be set at the end of term. All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to the Independent



energy there is at any one spot, the more that space and time are curved tight around it. A tetchy little object, such as our Earth, only bends the space around it a little bit; the more macho Sun tugs the underlying fabric around it far more tautly.

It seems a preposterous view – how can seemingly empty space be warped? But in 1919, an English physicist led a team off the west coast of Africa, where a solar eclipse allowed the scientists, briefly, actually to see distant starlight being swivelled around the sun. It was like watching a bank shot in billiards suddenly take place in the sky overhead, where nobody had ever suspected a curved corner pocket to reside.

With the First World War just ended, this was wondrous. God may have seemed lost after the trenches, but now order had been divined in the cosmos. Even better, a German and an Englishman working together had found it. Einstein, instantly, was the greatest media celebrity on the planet.

He took it calmly, saying that because his prediction had been proven true the Germans were calling him a German, and the French were proclaiming him a citizen of the world; but if his prediction had been shown

false, the French would have called him a German, and the Germans would have called him a Jew. In fact he got it wrong: his astronomical prediction stayed true, but with the rise of Hitler the Germans still called him a Jew. He left the Continent, and tried England, but Oxford did not take favourably to Jews then, certainly not ones who saw no reason to respect the class system, and he ended up in Princeton.

How unique was his work? Researchers in France and the Netherlands were getting close to his special theory, and would have caught up soon. It was his second theory, concerning gravity, which was more individual, as no one else was even close to handling that vision of object-curved space. But even this would probably have been reached in a half-century or so.

That's the cursed trade-off of scientists: you get to make excellent, clear advances but if your results are true, describing something genuinely waiting out there, then anyone else can catch you up. You end up utterly replaceable; in time, your particular style or flair long forgotten, only future historians will know that you've been there at all.

Tomorrow: the Big Bang

## Good-bye battery



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tion of a good man, like the Bishop, is unacceptable. The Communist newspaper in Paris not normally attached to bishops, gave an interpretation of the news that struck everyone. A drawing shows a bearded Muslim pulling a trigger, and saying, "He was always talking of peace and fraternity. Now he won't get in our way any more."

**Douglas Johnson**

**Henri (Pierre) Claverie, priest born Algiers 8 May 1938; ordained 1965; Bishop of Oran 1981-90; died Oran, Algeria August 1996.**



## Roger Tory Peterson

turned to Canada in 1947 following his own BBC radio series in which he was billed as "Canada's golden voice of melody".

He came back to England in 1954 for a nostalgic reunion with his old bandleader and mentor, Henry Hall. Once again Les Allen sang their old signing-off song, which they had recorded together back in 1934: "It's Time to Say Goodnight".

**Denis Gifford**

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**Leslie Allen, singer: born London 29 August 1902; married 1926 (one son); died Toronto 25 June 1996.**

Roger Peterson supported wildlife and conservation bodies all over the world, and his presence at dedication or fund-raising events ensured that huge crowds would attend.

In October last year he was due to attend the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the I.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, which was thought to be under threat from property developers in Florida, when he suffered a mild stroke.

Sadly he never recovered.

His name will rank with those of the other two giants of ornithology — John James Audubon and John Gould.

**James Hancock**

*Roger T. Peterson, ornithologist, born Peterson, New York, 18 Aug. 1908; married 1935 Mildred Washington (marriage dissolved 1942); 1943 Barbara Coulter (two children; marriage dissolved 1976); 1976 Virginia Connors; died Old Lyme, Connecticut, 28 July 1995.*

brown eyes. The neatness of his dress, the cut of his suits, the mirror-like quality of his shoes were legendary among his friends. The light-heartedness of his Cambridge days, when he was much in thrall to Sidney Bechet and P.G. Wodehouse, never left him. With noble indifference he shrugged off the illness of his last years.

**Martin Nourse**

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*Timothy Fraser Jones, stockjobber: born Liverpool 15 July 1931; staff, Akroyd & Smithers 1957-84, joint chairman 1981-84; director, Mercury International Group 1984-86; Vice Lord*



The title Emeritus Professor has been accorded to the following:

Professor D.K. Bailey (Geology); Professor E. Braun (Mining); Professor R.N. Dixon (Chemistry); Professor E.G. Ellison (Mechanical Engineering); Professor E. Fletcher (Physics); Professor E. Hoyle (Education); Professor S.L. Millham (Policy Studies); Professor H.G. Mitchell (Political History); Professor E. Fawcett (Policy Studies); Professor H. Pearson (Physiology); Professor R.C. Jelfs (Literary Criticism); Professor R.C. Jelfs (Literary Criticism).

**Nuffield College**

The following fellowships have been awarded by Nuffield College, Oxford:

Dwight Gibson Research Fellowship; Dr Andrew McDonald, Visiting Fellow; Dr John G. Coulter, Mr John Monks, Associate

Professor of Applied Statistics: Dr David J. Balding, Ulster Professor of Literary History and History: Dr R. Bradford, Professor of Irish History: Dr S.J. Connolly.

**Lectures**

Victoria and Albert Museum  
Richard Dunn, "The Art of the Clock", 2.30pm.

**ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS**

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Baking Association, will attend a Council Meeting on Tuesday 14th at 11.30am. The Duchess of York, President, Royal Baking Association, will attend a Council Meeting on Tuesday 14th at 11.30am. The Duchess of York, President, Royal Baking Association, will attend a Council Meeting on Tuesday 14th at 11.30am. The Duchess of York, President, Royal Baking Association, will attend a Council Meeting on Tuesday 14th at 11.30am.

**Changing of the Guard**

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at 11.30am.

Horse Guards, 11am.



1 7



# Inflation fears set Bank on course for clash with Clarke

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

The Bank of England's Inflation Report published on Wednesday will set the scene for a clash between Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, in the run-up to a spring general election.

The quarterly report is expected to say that the risk of above-target inflation by mid-1998 could require an increase in base rates sometime during the next 12 months if the economy continues to build up steam.

In its last report in May, the Bank issued a forthright warning that the economy was at precisely the stage at which "policy mistakes tended to be made in the subsequent month's quarter-point out in the level of base rates."

A growing number of independent economists are lining up with the Bank's cautious stance. A clutch of new forecasts published today predict that the economy is picking up fast enough to put upward pressure on inflation and interest rates.

According to David Mackie, UK economist at the investment bank JP Morgan, "We are in for the sort of mini-boom which is likely to make the Governor very, very nervous about the inflation target. We could be seeing fireworks by January."

Barclays Bank's chief economist, Alan Davies, predicts that base rates will have to climb from their current 5.75 per cent level to 7.5 per cent next year. "Sustaining low inflation will require cautious policies," he says.

Marian Bell at the Royal Bank of Scotland said yesterday: "There is no reason for the Bank of England to have changed its view since May." Although the short-term prospects for inflation are very favourable, the upturn in manufacturing, strong retail sales and sterling's decline from its level two months ago would all concern the Bank's economists, she said.

An article to be published in the Bank's Quarterly Bulletin on Wednesday assesses how quickly changes in interest rates affect different sectors of the economy. It confirms that the biggest and fastest reaction occurs in construction and sectors linked to the housing market.

Telephone troubles: Mobile rivals angry over 'delaying tactics' □ OfTel unveils plans for more lines

## Cellnet in battle over number portability

CHRIS GODSMARK  
Business Correspondent

Cellnet, the mobile telephone network jointly owned by BT and Securicor, has launched a behind-the-scenes campaign to try to prevent the introduction of mobile number portability, where customers can change networks but keep their existing number.

even though the implications of number portability will have consequences for both your customers and your systems... service providers introducing number portability will need to introduce new business processes as well as modifying billing and administration systems to enable a customer to move networks while taking their number with them.



Not so mobile: At present customers need a new number when they change service providers Photograph: Dillon Bryden

The extent of the lobbying effort was revealed in a letter Cellnet has sent to service providers, the retailers which buy wholesale air time from mobile networks and sell it to the public. Orange, the digital mobile company, is preparing a formal complaint to the industry regulator, OfTel, about what it claims are Cellnet's deliberate delaying tactics.

It concludes with criticism of OfTel: "Given the impact on [service providers'] business the introduction of number portability will have, we believe OfTel should have asked service providers for their views."

OfTel is using whatever tactics it can to delay number portability. It's patently untrue to say it is bad for service providers' business. In fact, it's quite the reverse, because customers could switch networks without changing their service provider."

The letter, from Richard Davis, Cellnet's head of channel sales, encloses a copy of the company's response to the OfTel consultation paper. In the document Cellnet argues customers are not interested in keeping their mobile number when changing network.

Customers in general do not perceive their mobile numbers to be of particular value." It concludes: "The benefits of mobile portability would not outweigh the cost of implementation."

Cellnet has 41 per cent of the total mobile phone market but has slipped behind Vodafone and Orange in the fast expanding digital business. The Government has said all analogue phone customers should move to digital by 2005. By June this year Vodafone had grabbed 32 per cent of the digital mobile market with 26 per cent for Orange and Cellnet trailing on 22 per cent.

The introduction of number portability for fixed phone lines is already under way and OfTel is consulting with the industry on how to bring in mobile number portability. The regulator hopes to finalise plans and give a specific time-scale by the end of this year. Supporters of the concept see the lack of number portability as a crucial obstacle to the development of competition.

Cellnet's letter, dated 18 June, says number portability is "being pushed by Orange". It suggests it will be bad for service providers' businesses. It continues: "OfTel does not appear to have requested comments from service providers,

8 billion new numbers, but five cities - Greater London, Belfast, Cardiff, Portsmouth and Southampton - will still run out of numbers by the end of the century. This is the second set of proposals by OfTel to satisfy this demand. Last year's consultation paper met with a less than enthusiastic response from the industry and consumer groups.

OfTel's previous idea was to divide the country into 10 regions, which would use the prefix "02". These numbers would run in parallel with existing "01" numbers.

The changes must take place over the next four years. But as with phONE day, which cost BT £100m, the two systems will run side by side to prevent undue confusion.

A spokesman for Cellnet was unavailable for comment yesterday.

## Terms of shop leases hold up sale of Signet chains

NIGEL COPE

The sale of Signet's UK jewellery chains H Samuel and Ernest Jones has been held up by negotiations over the 600 shop leases. There are 430 branches of H Samuel and almost 170 Ernest Jones shops with the leases controlled by 162 different landlords.

been the only potential buyer for several months. Signet put the UK jewellery businesses up for sale in January in an attempt to reduce its hefty debts of around £350m, as well as to appease rebel shareholders. At the time, several groups expressed an interest in the shops, including the former chairman Gerald Ratner.

capital reconstruction. The former Ratners business had net debt of £308m at its year-end in February. It also owes £135m to preference shareholders in unpaid dividends.

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

The BBC will this week finalise plans for the privatisation of its transmission services, prior to an auction aimed at raising as much as £250m.

Among likely bidders are Racal, the telecommunications, defence and electronics giant, and International CableTel, the US-owned cable operator that earlier this year bought NTL, the country's leading private-sector transmission company. There is also the prospect of a management buyout, with venture capital backing. Other possible buyers are BT, Carillon Communications and Pearson, which are already involved in varying degrees in the transmission business.

by Lehman Brothers, who have advised the BBC on the valuation. Initial expectations of about £180m have been revised upward to at least £250m, following the sale of NTL. That deal created what Lehman has argued is a new benchmark.

The sale marks the first time that a part of the massive BBC infrastructure has been sold to the private sector. The corporation agreed to the privatisation in order to concentrate its attention on programme making and the introduction of digital services. The BBC will be entitled to keep most of the proceeds from the sale to finance the introduction of new technology.

The auction is being handled

These are thought to include the main transmitters as well as back-up facilities and satellite uplinks. However, a large-scale telecoms operation, including broadband links between BBC offices in London and the North, may not be part of the sale.

The privatisation is expected to generate considerable interest in the broadcasting and facilities market in the UK.

Source: FT Information

Source: FT Information

Source: FT Information

## IN BRIEF

● **Advisers to Pearson**, the media and entertainment giant, were yesterday locked in late negotiations with two bidders for Westminster Press, the regional newspaper group, with the aim of making an announcement to coincide with its interim profits today. John Makinson, the Pearson executive charged with handling the auction, had been keen to compensate for anticipated poor profits by linking the interim announcement to confirmation of the WP sale.

The confirmed bidders are Newsquest, the regional newspaper group backed by US leveraged buyout specialists KKR, and a consortium made up of Mirror Group and Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers. At least one team was at Lazard's London offices until late in the evening and discussed details including the fate of a multi-million pound surplus in the Westminster Press pension fund. Both contenders are thought to be bidding about £30m although the structure of the offers makes it difficult to specify a headline figure.

● **Brunner Mond**, the UK's sole manufacturer of soda ash, is returning to the stock market after an absence of 70 years. Brunner was last quoted in London in 1926 when it merged with three other companies to form ICI, from which it was bought out in 1991. As well as soda ash, an important raw material in the manufacture of glass and detergent, the company makes sodium bicarbonate and calcium chloride. Customers include ICI, Pilkington, Procter & Gamble and Unilever. For the year to June, Brunner Mond has estimated an operating profit of £19.4m and sales of £138.8m.

● **Alders**, the department store group that recently sold its international duty-free arm to Swissair, is in discussions that may lead to it buying a number of stores from Owen Owen for around £23m. The duty-free disposal left Alders with a £100m cash pile and the company confirmed yesterday that it was still considering returning some of the cash direct to shareholders.

● **TI**, the engineering group, is to buy the Brazilian refrigeration components division of Alcan Aluminio do Brasil, part of Alcan Aluminium. The deal, which is still subject to regulatory approval, will see TI paying £15.5m for the fluid carrying systems group, which last year had sales of just over £21m.

● **KPMG** has appointed Grant Thornton as its auditors. KPMG is the first major firm of accountants to incorporate part of its business and to publish a full report and accounts along the lines of those produced by public limited companies.

● **National Power** and a consortium of other investors has bought the Hazelwood power station from Australia's Victoria state government for a higher-than-expected A\$2.35bn (£1.2bn). The sale, to the Hazelwood Power Partnership, marks the first Australian acquisition by National Power, which holds 52 per cent of the partnership, and the second by Pacificorp of the US, which owns 19.9 per cent. Because of its age, the 30-year-old brown coal power station was expected to sell for less than A\$2bn.

● **Mexico** has obtained a six-month extension from the International Monetary Fund on a standby credit programme but its central bank has said it does not intend to use the money. The extension gives Mexico access to a further \$4.84bn in IMF funds.

● **More than half Europe's owner-managers** are looking to sell their firms, with only 46 per cent intending to pass them on to the family. British owner-managers are least inclined to create dynasties, with only 32 per cent planning to hand on to future generations. On the Continent this is seen as the main motivation of family company owners. The findings are in a report from 3i, which also shows British managers wanting to retire earlier than European counterparts.

## Network

See Network the 12 page special I.T. pullout in section two

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Every Monday in the THE INDEPENDENT section two

STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100									
Index	Close	Week's chg	Change %	1996 High	1996 Low	YTD % Chg	1995 High	1995 Low	YTD % Chg
FTSE 100	3770.60	+97.3	+2.6	3857.10	3632.90	4.07			
FTSE 250	4265.70	+50.2	+1.2	4368.60	4015.90	3.54			
FTSE 350	1886.00	+43.1	+2.3	1945.40	1816.60	3.95			
FT Small Cap	2024.10	-3.0	-0.1	2244.96	1851.06	3.16			
FT All Share	1863.96	+39.5	+2.2	1924.17	1781.95	3.89			
New York	5679.83	+208.8	+3.8	5778.00	5002.94	2.28			
Tokyo	20940.41	-184.5	-0.9	22666.80	19724.70	0.751			
Hong Kong	10961.97	+256.4	+2.4	11594.90	10204.87	3.471			
Frankfurt	2508.65	+38.3	+1.6	2583.49	2283.36	1.841			

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	Medium Term	Long Term	10 Year	30 Year	YTD % Chg
UK	5.75	6.00	7.00	8.14	7.90	8.22			
US	5.47	5.84	6.47	8.52	8.74	9.53			
Japan	0.44	1.00	3.28	3.00	-	-			
Germany	3.20	3.44	6.25	6.08	6.96	-			

CURRENCIES									
S/£									
Index	Close	Week's chg	Yr Ago	1996 High	1996 Low	YTD % Chg	1995 High	1995 Low	YTD % Chg
\$ (London)	1.5428	-1.29c	1.6087			-4.35%			
\$ (New York)	1.5428	-1.29c	1.6087			-4.35%			
DM (London)	2.2763	-2.39c	2.2928			-0.72%			
¥ (London)	164.941	-13.44c	146.677			+12.84%			
¥ (New York)	164.941	-13.44c	146.677			+12.84%			

MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Index	Close	Week's chg	Yr Ago	1996 High	1996 Low	YTD % Chg	1995 High	1995 Low	YTD % Chg
Chiroscience	365	+46	+14.4	410	348	13.6			
Stagecoach Hedges	521	+7	+1.3	521	410	8.1			
Lucas Industries	238	+25	+11.8	263	162	7.4			





GAVYN DAVIES

'It is hard to imagine the present set-up, in which the Governor of the Bank of England is in open disagreement with the Chancellor about the setting of monetary policy, being tenable for very long under different incumbents'

# The policy of openness opens up new problems

The Chancellor has decided that henceforward he will publish the conclusions of the International Monetary Fund mission to the UK each year, claiming that this will increase "openness and transparency in relations between the IMF and its member countries". Mr Clarke should get some credit for this decision, though it is as nothing compared to his previous spasm of *glasnost* fever – the publication of the minutes of the monthly monetary meeting between himself and the Governor of the Bank of England.

This, perhaps the most significant single move towards transparency in Britain's history, was a very strange animal to emerge from a Chancellor who frequently tells his staff that he does not believe in open government. Not only is it the only meeting in Whitehall which is subject to public scrutiny within six weeks of it happening, but it is also the only one in which civil servants are permitted to disagree with their minister, on the record and in front of outsiders. Admittedly, the points made by Treasury officials are not attributed to anyone by name, but they nevertheless appear in cold print for the world to scrutinise.

It is a remarkable and attractive characteristic of the Chancellor's that he does not seem to mind this public show of disunity from his officials. Observers say that such freedom of expression is not encouraged on the Bank side, and indeed it is unlikely that it would be countenanced by many Chancellors other than Ken Clarke. In fact, it is hard to imagine the present set-up, in which the Governor of the Bank of England is in open disagreement with the Chancellor about the setting of monetary policy, being tenable for very long under different incumbents.

I have always thought that the present arrangements represent an unstable half-way house between the old secretive UK arrangements and full operational independence for the central bank. Unstable because the new system inevitably results in dramatic conflicts between the Chancellor and the Governor, where one side or the other is inevitably deemed by the press to be the "winner". This seems unlikely to lead over time to calm deliberation about monetary policy.

Furthermore, the incentive to tweak the mechanism so that the real decisions are taken in unrecorded private meetings, and then rubber-stamped by the official monthly jumble, is very great. I heard recently that the Chancellor and the Governor routinely meet every month for lunch, outside the framework of the official meetings. What do they talk about? And why are these meetings not minutes? These are the kind of "thin end of the wedge" questions which are inevitably raised when our closed system of government allows the outside world to peek under its skirt.

Of course, the irony is that when the new system was first introduced, virtually everyone believed that it would greatly strengthen the Bank's position at the expense of the Treasury's. If that had happened, the politicians might already have decided that the constraints and burdens of the new mechanism were intolerable. Yet, through some odd quirks of history, the opposite result seems to have occurred. The fact that the Chancellor has been seen to over-

rule the Bank, and apparently to pay no penalty for so doing, has robbed the Bank of its former mystique. Under the old system, it was never clear how much influence the Bank was having. Now it is clear that it is having virtually none.

The latest problem for the Governor has been to figure out how to proceed when his advice on interest rates is not heeded by the Chancellor for several months in a row. Here is the dilemma. In June, when Mr Clarke reduced base rates from 6 per cent to 5.75 per cent, the Bank unanimously advised him to leave monetary policy unchanged. The question for the Bank, going into the next meeting on 30 July, was whether to accept the previous month's cut, or to reiterate its opposition to it. If it did the latter, then it would in effect be arguing for an increase in base rates this month, however skillfully the Governor chose to word

his advice. It will be interesting to see whether this is what happened when the minutes are published in September.

If it is indeed what happened, which is probable, then there is obviously a danger that the Bank's advice may over time drift apart from the actual setting of interest rate policy chosen and implemented by the Chancellor. This could lead to all sorts of new misunderstandings and dilemmas as two separate time series – the Bank's recommended level of base rates and the Chancellor's chosen level – potentially drift apart from each other.

Of course, none of these problems means that the old system of setting interest rates – when sudden changes were imposed for political reasons, often under the orders of the Prime Minister rather than the Chancellor – was superior to the present one. It would be hard to argue that. But they do mean that we may not yet have alighted upon a robust alternative which will truly survive the test of time. Sooner or later, an accident may happen which could force further changes to the system. Since there are good reasons for believing that the Bank will generally want to set tighter policy than the Chancellor of the day, this accident is most likely to be one of four types which are described in the accompanying matrix. Essentially, the cells are divided as follows – either the Bank's tough advice is proved right or wrong; and the Chancellor either follows the Bank's

advice, or he does not. The outcomes are very different in these four cases.

The one we have seen so far is the bottom right, where the Chancellor rejects the Bank's tough advice, and is proved to be right. In this case, the system survives intact, but the Bank limps along with a discredited reputation. Worse happens in the top right quadrant, where the Bank is again wrong, but the Chancellor reluctantly decides to follow its advice. Here we have a recession, since monetary policy is too tight, and the Bank gets the blame. Under such circumstances, it becomes possible to imagine that the Chancellor might go back to the old system, in which the Bank's advice is not published at all.

Now consider the alternatives in which the Bank's tough advice proves to be right. If the Chancellor follows this advice, again reluctantly, then policy is tightened in time to avoid a rise in inflation. The Bank gets the main part of the credit, but the Chancellor is praised for having the sense to follow its advice. The system probably survives intact, though the Bank could win operational independence in this case. Only in the final case, the bottom left, would the clamour for Bank independence become overwhelming. In this instance, the Bank's advice proves right, but the Chancellor fails to follow it. Inflation rises, the markets lose confidence in the Chancellor, and he is forced to concede that the Bank should set interest rates in future.

Only one of these four alternatives results unequivocally in independence for the Bank – and sadly it is one which requires a policy disaster to intervene first.

## What happens if the Governor advises tougher monetary policy than the Chancellor wants?

Economic outcome	
Bank proves right	Bank proves wrong
Inflation avoided, Bank praised, Chancellor forgiven	Recession, blamed on Bank
Inflation rises, Chancellor blamed, Bank made independent	Recession avoided, Chancellor the hero

The managing director of Pelican Group talks to Tom Stevenson

## Premium price for the cafés that painted the town rouge

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW  
KAREN JONES

Had she not been a mere slip of a girl 20 years ago, Karen Jones would have made a passable model for Shirley Conran's *Superwoman*. She had the good grace to look a tad weary when we met on Friday, and was on the way to hospital to have her back checked, but these were the only hints Pelican Group's managing director gave of being bothered by human frailty.

It had been a week to tell lesser mortals. Tuesday was her birthday. Wednesday she sold her business to Whitbread for £13.5m, netting £3m herself. Thursday she was on the road again, visiting Pelican's fast-growing empire. Little wonder, she could only fit me in for 45 minutes at 8 o'clock on Friday morning. Whatever was happening to those poor bairns, three of them and all under the age of five?

"This week I've hardly seen them and I really, really mind that. But I make sure it doesn't happen a lot. I work round the kids. Work when they're in bed." With a "brilliant dad" and a "brilliant nanny" and £3m it's all just about manageable, but plainly this is one driven woman. Thursday night she checked out four, yes four, Pelican restaurants.

Her performance last week chimed with a story friends tell about a weekend in Devon when every member of her party of 12 got food poisoning at their guest house. While everyone else was reaching for the Tums and feeling sorry for themselves, Ms Jones was clattering round the kitchen, checking the contents of the fridge and calling in the health inspector.

Yes, they would pay the bar bill, she told the hapless owner, but not their rooms or meals. Thank you. Goodbye. Peter Jarvis has negotiated a few deals for Whitbread in recent years but he must feel relieved

to have got away with paying a premium to Pelican's assets of just £100m. Human dynamos don't come cheap.

Karen Jones seems to have had a lifetime of getting what she wanted. She wanted Malcolm Bradbury for a tutor and got a first to prove the wisdom of her choice. She wanted a potentially high-flying job in advertising and got it with Boase Massimi Pollitt, but deep down what she wanted was to pick up the waitress's notepad and drinks tray again so she packed it all in to manage a restaurant.

If anyone thought she was mad at the time, subsequent events have proved them wrong. Chances are that career in advertising would have come off the rails in the last recession that savaged that industry. Restaurants, however, have made Ms Jones a woman of means, even if her windfall is unlikely to cure her workaholicism. "I'm a bloody good waitress actually. But I love the business side too. Love the organisation. There's no buzz like walking into one of your own restaurants."

The sale of Pelican to Whitbread last week was the culmination of six frenetic years during which the Café Rouge to Dome chain grew from a hunch to one of Britain's fastest growing restaurant concepts. And what a success it has been. Whitbread certainly thought so – it has just paid £13.5m for £3.5m of assets.

That was quite a vote of confidence in Jones and Roger Myers, the partner with whom she set up her first Café Rouge in Richmond, Surrey, with the proceeds of selling on their previous venture, Theme Hold-

ings, a restaurant and leisure group, traded briefly on the Third Market in the mid-1980s before being snapped up for a top-of-the-market £17m in 1987.

"Rouge was really a distillation of everything we had seen work at Theme. We went to Paris and photographed everything. But it was also a reflection of everything we liked. Sure, it's not the most innovative concept, not ground-breaking, but that is its strength. It was always meant to be a classic."

And despite what a bunch of snooty Michelin star chefs said about the food last week, Pelican appears to have found a formula that works, and not just in London. That is why Whitbread swooped when it did. But is it the end of what charm can be left in a chain of 100 restaurants? Will the dead hand of a brewing giant snuff out the creative spark as it throws money at the chain to take it to maybe 300 sites in the next five years?

"The whole point of this acquisition is that, in the words of Whitbread, they ring-fence Pelican. They've bought not just what Roger and I have created in the past but what we will create in the future. The idea is they put money in and let us get on with it."

But surely they won't be able to resist interfering? "I can't give any guarantees. Obviously, it hasn't happened yet. All I can do is talk to them and convey the passion I have for Pelican and then go with it and see what happens. I also don't think they'd be so daft. I don't think they'd pay a fairly full price for something and then break it up. Why buy it in the first place?" Myers and Jones were cheer-

fully expressing their commitment to Pelican and Whitbread last week and plainly Peter Jarvis has not expected them to swap an equity stake for a salaried job without adding some bells and whistles to their new contracts that will keep them interested for a while. But how long can either be expected to stay with a business they no longer really control?

Careful answer this time: "I really don't know. Roger and I have never really looked more than a year or two ahead." The temptation to try and do it one more time must be enormous.



Karen Jones: Netted £3m from Whitbread on Wednesday, working again on Thursday Photograph: Peter Macdonald

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## Allied forced to drop Carlsberg price by 33%

JOHN SHEPHERD  
Business News Editor

Allied Dunelm had to drop the asking price for its Carlsberg-Tetley brewing business by 33 per cent to secure a takeover agreement with Bass, a source close to the negotiations said yesterday.

The source said that Allied originally put the business up for sale tagged with an asking price of £300m. It is now widely expected that the deal will be pitched at £200m and will finally be sealed late this week with Bass.

"Allied is having to pay a heavy price to correct its mistake of a couple of years ago," one analyst said. Allied pooled its brewing interest with Carlsberg of Denmark in the early 1990s, but has never been able to extract the expected benefits from the venture, according to company insiders, due to vast cultural differences with the Danes.

Bass, it is understood, would not entertain Allied's £300m value because of the regulatory

risks involved. To avoid a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Department of Trade and Industry is likely to force Bass to agree to undertakings probably involving the sale of a couple of hundred pubs and some beer brands.

Although opponents of the deal believe a Bass takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley would concentrate too much power in the hands of just two companies – Bass and Scottish Courage – there is mounting speculation that the DTI has been persuaded that the springing up of powerful independent pub chains has shifted the industry's power away from the brewers.

The pub owners are also consolidating and it is believed that the market could soon be dominated by a handful of national chains with the clout to demand big discounts. That might be enough to secure a relatively easy regulatory passage for the takeover.

Full details of the deal have yet to be disclosed, and lawyers

are busily applying the final touches to a complex takeover that involves around 70 separate agreements.

These involve numerous supply deals on Carlsberg-Tetley's beer brands – from Carlsberg and Skol lagers to Tetley bitter – and securing the future of Allied's Danish brewing partner in the UK.

Carlsberg, according to industry speculation, is set to end up with a 20 per cent equity stake in Bass Breweries, the brewing arm of Bass which also owns the international Holiday Inn hotel chain.

Beside lowering the asking price, analysts expect Allied to make a £300m write-off for withdrawing from brewing.

Once the deal is consummated, Bass will regain its position as the largest brewer in the UK, after having been toppled from pole position last year when Scottish & Newcastle bought Courage from Foster's of Australia. Bass and S&N will hold sway over almost 70 per cent of the UK's beer production.

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## SCIENCE



John Scopes (centre, seated) was found guilty in 1925 in Tennessee of teaching evolution to schoolchildren

Photograph: Corbis-Bettmann

# A new row evolves

Evolution is again under fire. Charles Arthur looks at the arguments

This autumn, schoolchildren opening their biology textbooks in the American state of Alabama will find warnings pasted to some pages. Evolution, the stickers say, is "a controversial theory that shouldn't be considered fact". Meanwhile, in New Mexico, Texas and Michigan, the six-yearly review of those states' school course material is in progress – and there are fears that similar challenges will be mounted to what has been called "the unifying theory of life and earth sciences".

Who is challenging evolution? Religious groups and individuals keen to push a "creationist" point of view, based on the Biblical scriptures, who see the theory first put forward by Darwin as a challenge to their beliefs. What is worrying is that in some states, such as Alabama, they are driving tiny wedges into some areas of teaching that could, in future, lead to bigger cracks in the public's understanding of science and its uses.

In some US states, the depth of religious feeling has meant that Darwin's theory has always sparked strong opposition. In 1925, the teacher John Scopes was found guilty in Tennessee of the heinous crime of teaching evolution to schoolchildren. Things have improved – in June a Tennessee teacher was suspended for two days for introducing a creationist guest speaker to secondary-school children who told them "as far as the formation of the Earth goes, there are two theories: one is evolution and one is creationism. There's no third position. Either the Earth formed slowly or very quickly".

Advocates of "creationism" (or the more recent "creation science", which attempts to create a coherent theory that coincides with Biblical thinking) do, though, face one huge obstacle: the US Constitution forbids the government establishment of religion. That meant, first, that Biblical teachings could not be put up in direct opposition to science teaching in classrooms.

The lobbyists then tried another tack, by attempting to have "creation science" put onto an equal footing with evolution as "a theory" which should be examined and tested against evidence. It seemed promising – but the Supreme Court knocked it down in 1987, ruling that "creation science" is religion, and so cannot be taught in publicly funded schools.

(The situation in the UK is a lot clearer: evolution is part of the National Curriculum for GCSE science, and so is compulsory.)

In the face of the court decisions, the only alternative left for US creationists has been to try to chip away at the credibility of the theory of evolution by questioning its validity.

But why does it matter if American teachers do or don't teach evolution, and if textbooks call it a "theory" (which, after all, it is)? "There's a variety of reasons," says Mollie Matsumura, network projects director for the National Center for Science Education, a non-profit group based in Berkeley,

California, which acts as a national clearing house for information to "keep evolution in the science classroom and 'scientific creationism' out". "First, it leads to inadequate textbooks and the intimidation of teachers. If they're told their jobs are at risk if they teach evolution as a fact, what else might they be prevented from teaching for political and religious reasons?" "Second, it has an impact on general scientific literacy. Every two years the National Science Foundation carries out a survey of the general public: the latest one [performed in 1993] found that only 2 per cent understood science as the development and testing of theory. More worryingly, only 44 per cent agreed with the statement "Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals".

Ms Matsumura notes, "If children don't understand science as a process, they don't see how knowledge is created. And you have to understand how people use words in everyday language. If somebody says 'That's

just a theory', they mean it's like a guess. They don't understand what a scientist means by saying that evolution is a theory." But in a country so large and which contains such extremes of religious thinking, it's clear that organisations like NCSE have their work cut out keeping tabs on religious groups' attempts to chip away at the tenets of science, especially with school-age children, it is easier to raise the objection ("How could the first self-replicating molecule create itself?") than explain the answer. Meanwhile, the NCSE is readying itself for the next round of the battle. "When school restarts in the autumn, we expect to see more activity – more teachers being intimidated about what they can teach, more pressure on what textbooks can include," says Ms Matsumura. "The funny thing is that many religions – such as Catholicism – are quite happy to accept evolution as a theory which explains how we developed. But sometimes, the people raising the objections don't know it."

Theories about the formation of galaxies may have to be revised now that new evidence suggests there are large holes in space devoid of matter, says Charles Arthur

## Is there really nothing out there?

Space really does consist of large amounts of nothing, according to a new set of results from the European Southern Observatory (ESO). An international team using telescopes in Chile, Europe, Australia and the US have discovered that there are voids up to 100 million light years across that contain no matter at all. The finding – which suggests (as so many other astronomical calculations do) that there is less matter around than predicted – could mean that theories about the formation of galaxies will have to be revised.

Astronomers have known for years that there are areas of the sky where optical telescopes cannot find any visible matter such as galaxies, gas or stars. But there was always the suspicion that these voids might contain something which did not show up.

Proving that there's nothing out there is not a straightforward task: if the matter was present but too cool to emit radiation, it would not show up by any telescopic examination.

So the ESO team tried a different tack: they examined the movement of more than 2,000 well-known galaxies through space, using their international resources of optical and radio telescopes. The intention now was to use the inescapable property that any matter in the voids would have gravity.

If there was something there, then it would exert a gravitational pull on those galaxies – just as the supercluster of galaxies known as the "Great Attractor", 150 million light years away, is doing for everything in our local Universe, including our own home galaxy, the Milky Way. By measuring the deflection of the movements of the galaxies, and correlating that with their positions and velocities, it would be possible to build a three-dimensional map of the distribution of matter in the "nearby Universe".

The conclusion that the team reached, after months of com-



No matter: the dark areas show the 'voids' Image: ESO

puter analysis and checking, was blunt: apart from the galaxies, there really is nothing there. The picture here is part of the computer-generated view of the local Universe, covering an area 600 million light years across. At the centre is the Milky Way, though on the scale used in this image, its size – tens of thousands of light years – means it is only a speck. The voids have diameters of about 100 to 200 million light years, and have minimal matter density. But this raises a number of questions about the formation of galaxies that have troubled some astronomers.

For example, it has been known for some time that the distribution of energy after the Big Bang was not even: the COBE (Cosmic Background Radiation) experiment, showing "ripples" in the background temperature of the Universe, indicated that. But there were no "holes" in the energy/matter distribution. For that reason, the astronomers have concluded, the holes that we can observe today must have formed later in the Universe's

development. The conventional theory of galaxy formation is that stars began to form, and that their gravity pulled them together into galaxies. This would leave voids – as observed, but the average distribution of matter should be equal. There would be regions of the Universe that make up for the voids' low density by having larger numbers of galaxies. Certainly, there are plenty of clusters of galaxies that do contain enormous numbers of stars – the Great Attractor (discovered in 1986) being one of them. But, say the ESO team, there is still not enough observed matter in those "superclusters" to compensate for the emptiness of the newly discovered holes. The result: a big question mark over how galaxies are formed. Though the results are not being formally released until September – in the *Journal of Astrophysical Letters* – it seems astronomers have a new problem to grapple with in keeping track of the matter that should be present in the Universe – but which we can't find.

### COULD YOU DEFEND EVOLUTION?

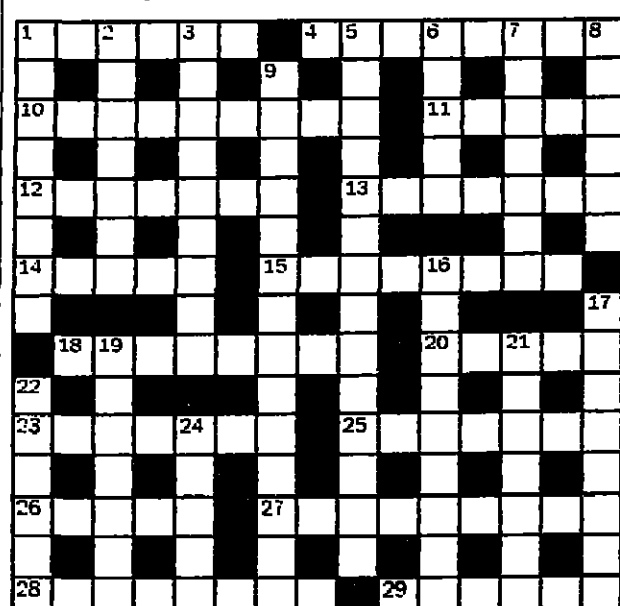
The 16 questions below are shortened versions of those on the "Creation Science" Web page (<http://empirium.turkietel.net/Ces/quest.htm>), which challenges supporters of the theory of evolution to explain various aspects of it. If you can't answer at least 10 of the 16 quite easily (and saying "Because it does" doesn't count), perhaps you should brush up your reading: try *Climbing Mount Improbable* and *The Blind Watchmaker* (both by Richard Dawkins). You could also have a look at one response by an American student, Mark Vuletic, at <http://scirus.ukeduo/~vuletic/tour.html>.

1. How could the Big Bang generate something from nothing? And explosions create disorder, not order – how could the Big Bang have led to the formation of stars, planets and people?
2. The Universe depends on fundamental physical laws (gravity, conservation of mass and energy, etc) like a computer program depends on its hardware. How could these great controlling principles develop by accident?
3. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that systems become more disordered over time. How could evolution have generated order from disorder in a closed system – the Universe?
4. Information theory states that "information" cannot arise from random events. How could humans have arisen from randomness?
5. How could self-replicating life have emerged from dead chemicals?
6. Cells require both DNA (the "plans") and RNA (the "copiers"), which are tremendously complex, to survive. What chance is there that both these co-dependent necessities came into existence at exactly the same time?
7. Life is complex: how reasonable is it to believe that purely natural processes, with no designer, no intelligence, and no plan, produced humans?
8. If evolution has been taking place for so long, shouldn't there be many more transitional fossils between species? And why are the few examples shown by archaeologists intermediate in only one feature, rather than many?
9. Could an intermediate between one species and another survive, since it would not be ideally suited to its old environment or its new one?
10. How could reproduction evolve? And why should two sexes evolve so many times – wouldn't asexual reproduction be more efficient?
11. How could the first plants survive without photosynthesis – a very complex process?
12. How do you explain symbiotic relationships, where plants and animals need each other to survive?
13. Why should natural selection start to make an eye or a wing (or anything else), if that would not benefit the animal until it was complete?
14. How can evolution explain the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly?
15. Why can't scientists demonstrate evolution? It should be easy, if it is the grand mechanism that produced all natural things. It should be possible to prove its existence in a matter of weeks or days. But even the simplest of experiments has not been able to document it – why not?
16. Complex things require intelligent design – so what designed us?

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3087, Monday 5 August

By Poria



- ACROSS**
- 1 Search for a hammer outside (6)
  - 4 Affected to be valuable (8)
  - 10 Note Lucy's out manoeuvred by old Greek (9)
  - 11 Din from the casino is excessive (5)
  - 12 Prophet's making a claim hard to swallow (7)
  - 15 Quiet before outstanding performance (7)

- 14 Tend to spread around Kent (5)
- 15 Doesn't go beyond this – not any more (2,6)
- 18 Narrow business agreement (8)
- 20 Bore of a person who's near (5)
- 23 Cease to check out RAF organisation (7)
- 25 Still in good time at the end of the day (7)

- 26 Send a copy, says for information (5)
- 27 Very soon accepted article of importance (2,16)
- 28 Grannie's sorted out income (8)
- 29 Won't be deterred from leaning forward (4,2)

#### DOWN

- 1 Father means to go with-out money for a bit (8)
- 2 Throw in front of river snake (7)
- 3 Flyer's medal bearing heraldic device (9)
- 5 Wealthy earl's so spoilt but pleasant (5,3,3,3)
- 6 Twist and turn to reach African land (5)
- 7 Stone circle of course contains a number (7)
- 8 Told to knock off winter transport (6)
- 9 Moving picture (6,8)
- 16 Count on European who's most important (6,3)
- 17 Resort of Britain's politically correct (8)
- 19 He orders one caught inside to hold out (7)
- 21 I'm least upset to get ridicule (5,2)
- 22 Nothing for sweet (6)
- 24 Musically is very Italian (5)

## "People laughed when I offered to explain how to conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without money or doctors."

It may sound too good to be true – but it is true! There is a doctor-approved secret which will show you how you can, for the rest of your life, easily conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without spending money or seeing a doctor.

Most illnesses can be dealt with without pills or medicines and without orthodox or alternative therapies.

And you can get better without spending time and money or doctors, specialists, acupuncturists, hypnotherapists or pills from the chemist – and without exposing yourself to hazardous and uncomfortable side effects.

We have just published a new edition of "Bodypower" – the sensational book by Dr Vernon Coleman which hit the Sunday Times bestseller list and the Bookseller chart too. This fascinating book, reprinted 14 times in the UK and sold in just about every country in the world, shows exactly how 9 out of 10 illnesses can be conquered without seeing a doctor.

### Still not convinced? .. read on for more evidence

If you think our claims for Bodypower are difficult to believe read what the some of the many reviewers had to say:

"One of the most sensible treatises on personal survival that has ever been published. It sets out, in the simplest language, an enormous amount of knowledge in the easiest possible way" – (Yorkshire Evening Post)

"Don't miss it! Dr Coleman's theories could change your life ... the revolutionary way to look better and feel younger" – (Sunday Mirror)

"... a self help manual for maintaining or regaining health using your own resources. Vernon Coleman presents his evidence with clarity and evangelical fervour." – (The Good Book Guide)

"There are plenty of good books on healthcare ... I'd recommend Bodypower" – (Woman's Own)

"Arm yourself with a copy of Bodypower – it could make stress a thing of the past" – (Woman's World)

"Despite my own medical training and knowledge of nature's devices, Dr Coleman made me think again" – (BBC World Service)

"marvellously succinct ... refreshingly sensible" – (The Spectator)

Vernon Coleman is the UK's leading medical author and campaigning journalist. He has a string of bestsellers to his name and his books are sold in their millions around the world. He scours the world's medical journals and libraries to bring you invaluable information that could dramatically improve the quality of your life. Here are extracts from just a few of the many thousands of readers' letters sent to this office:

"It is lovely to have someone who cares about people as you do. You tell us such a lot of things that we are afraid to ask our own doctors" – (K.C.)

"I greatly admire you no nonsense approach to things and your acting as champion of the people" – (L.A.)

"I admire your forthright and refreshingly honest way of expressing your views and opinions ... bless you for being a light in the eternal darkness" – (B.O.)

"If only more people in the medical profession were like you it would be a much nicer world" – (G.W.)

"The man is a national treasure" (What Doctors Don't Tell You)

"A godsend" (Daily Telegraph)

"Britain's leading healthcare campaigner" (The Sun)

"Dr Vernon Coleman is one of our most enlightened, trenchant and sensible dispensers of medical advice" (The Observer)

"His advice is optimistic and enthusiastic" (British Medical Journal)

We are convinced that Bodypower will change your life and we know that you will not want to part with your copy of this invaluable book. But our guarantee of satisfaction (see below) means that you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If you want to know the secret of how to conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without seeing a doctor or spending any money on medical treatments then send your cheque/PO for £9.95 (made payable to Publishing House) to: Sales Office IN37, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HJ, UK. To pay by credit card please telephone 01271 328892 Monday – Friday 8.30 – 5.30. We look forward to hearing from you.

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